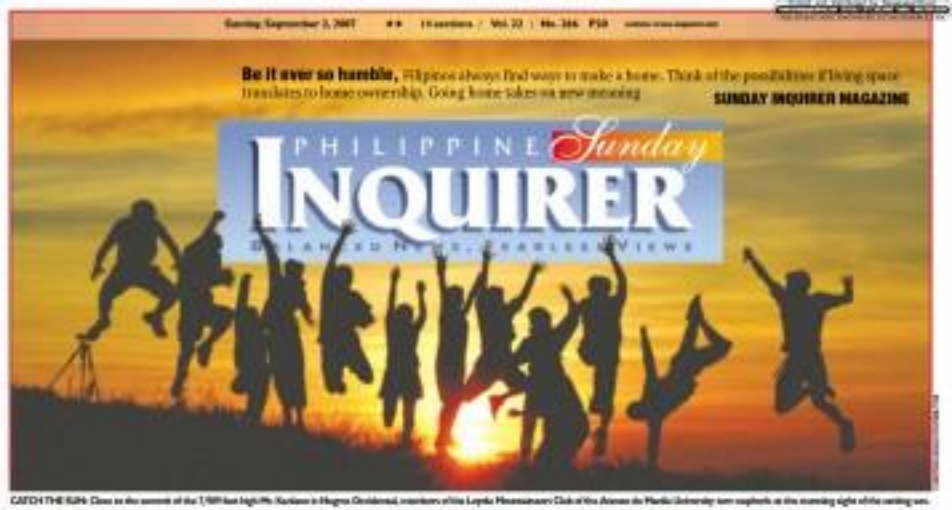
Sunday, September 3, 2007 | 44 sections / Vol. 32 | No. 366 | P30

Be it ever so humble, Filipinos always find ways to make a home. Think of the possibilities if living space translates to home ownership. Going home takes on new meaning

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER



CATCH THE SUN: Close to the summit of the 7,169-foot high Mt. Kanlaon is Magna Christensen, members of the Loyola Mountaineers Club of the Ateneo de Manila University turn soulmate at the morning sight of the setting sun.

SWS survey: Pardon Erap

Princess Di: 'Simply, best mother in the world'

LONDON—IT MAY NOT THE VICTION of Princess Diana gliding across a ballroom or that of the compassionate round consoling AIDS victims that her son remembered.

Rather, it was an image of Diana at her most intimate and unguarded—the princess as a doting mother of William and Harry.

"She kissed us last thing at night. Her beaming smile greeted us from school. She laughed hysterically and uncontrollably when dueling contorting silly she might have and is done that day" Harry said with a mixture of princely composure and deep feeling.

In his heartfelt address, Harry voiced the loss he and his brother still feel at his exiled friend's "simply the best mother in the world."

"We would say that, wouldn't we? But we miss her."

He explained: "William and I can separate life into two parts. There were those years when we were blessed by the physical presence, hassle—as of both our mother's and father and then there are the 10 years since our mother's death."

Harry said his mother would "always be remembered for her amazing public work."

He concluded his speech by saying: "She made us and so many other people happy—may this be the way that she is remembered."

The memorial service Friday organized by Prince William and Prince Harry climaxed a week of recalling her life and restoring old battles, all

PRINCESS/A-2

INTIMATE, MOST MOVING recollections of Prince Harry (right) of a mother as the Thanksgiving service he and elder brother William organized for Princess Diana. →

In case of guilty verdict, 48% of Metro residents want clemency

By Norman Bordadora

ALMOST HALF OF FILIPINOS in Metro Manila and nearby provinces feel President Macapagal-Arroyo should pardon former President Joseph Estrada if he is found guilty of plunder.

This was one of the findings of a non-falsified survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations in late July and commissioned by the political opposition.

"In case the Sandiganbayan declares Erap guilty, 48 percent say that GMA should pardon him immediately," read one of the highlights of the survey, dubbed Project Theodore. Details of the survey were obtained by the Inquirer from the opposition.

Thirty-eight percent said Estrada should be pardoned "after some time" and 13 percent said no pardon, the study said.

"Lenient classes prefer immediate pardon," it added.

Two percent of the respondents either refused to answer the question or

SWS SURVEY/A-4

'Komiks' by Caparas returns big-time

CONTRABANDS OF 'KOMIKS' NOVELS: Komiks written by Carlo J. Caparas will no longer be banned for 5 days a week starting tomorrow.

By Cornelio C. Tejero

IT'S THE FIRST OF ITS KIND: a *dario unido*, an inkbond of convergence between the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the king of "komiks" himself, Carlo J. Caparas.

"To Have and to Hold" starts tomorrow and every day thereafter except Sundays. Its first strip is a goddess with frames illustrated like a movie's storyboard. As can be gleaned from its title, it is a love story. From the first few panels the reader can discern a Romeo and Juliet situation between lovers torn and Arnette.

Caparas says he is aware that his entering the business is seeking new readers, that is, aside from his team-based built in readership he has to reach new ones in the corporate world, the harassment of offices, the mailroom, even the publications' halls.

He says he had thought this over... and so in his story he has business rivalries intermeshing with personal lives, romances developing from "hatemance" (coined to mall) to corporate wars to Forbes Park dialogues fluctuating between street Tagalog and straight English with Taglish in between.

Biz, we can expect poverty and injustice to be tackled romantic fire and foremost, as Caparas insists, the komiks reader's duty a no-nonsense.

"To Have and to Hold" will run six days a week for six months in the beginning, after which Caparas will follow it with a new short novels. Running duration may be adjusted to readers' demand, though. After all, "Darna" and "Kuha Dary Lupa," his two longest-running komiks novels, had to be extended to four years so that our

KOMIKS/A-14

Magdalo cooks up another coup: A soldier's cookbook

By Fe Zamora

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD.

Aside from mapping out their defense against charges they planned to oust President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2003, the detained Magdalo officers have also been plotting ways to come up with the best "pulutan" (finger food or bar chow) to go with their drinks.

The result of their four-year "plotting" is the 135-page cookbook "Pulutan: From the Soldiers' Kitchen".

Released last week, it is authored by

MAGDALO/A-14

GSIS head says sorry for e-Card glitches

By Michelle V. Rivera

GSIS PRESIDENT AND GENERAL manager Winston Garcia apologizes for the "glitches" in the delivery of services to the members of the Government Service Insurance System even while he alleges that some employees of the state-run pension fund have been sabotaging efforts to perfect the automation of its system.

"The imperfection in the system, I agree, is intolerable. If there had been malfunctions in our system, there is no excuse for that. My apologies," Garcia said.

"The human infrastructure that we have in the GSIS ranks... There may be some personnel sabotaging our efforts because they do not like what we are doing now," Garcia said at a meeting

GSIS/A-4

The big reveal: Model cities' secrets of governance

By Beverly T. Natividad and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

POOR RESIDENTS OF ISABELARAN City to forbid get free hospitalization benefits and free medicines.

Marikina to Metro Manila offers free dental services to its residents, while San Fernando City in Pampanga has placed some 6,000 of its residents in job fairs and recruitment projects.

"Tagbilaran is telling us that we are our best hope. San Fernando has exhibit from the ashes [of Mt. Pinatubo] and has provided an empowering atmosphere. Marikina is moving the concept of leadership into [one] that considers the people," said Manila Antonio Lopez, associate dean of the Asian Institute of Management's Center for Development Management.

If these three cities are edging out their counterparts in the rest of the country, it's not that their mayors—Marikina's Ma. Leonora Fernando, San Fernando's Oscar Rodriguez, and Tagbilaran's Jose Ned Lim—are fanatical of they survey.

For benchmarking a one person set or a top to bottom management approach, their ends of governance involves a way of doing things that demands the participation of both the governing and the governed.

THE BIG REVEAL/A-1

JOB
Inquirer stages career fiesta at Glorietta Sept. 3-5. Check it out to find work after your own heart

A way out of poverty, according to the gospel of John Goleongwei. New book unveils tatpan's struggles and triumphs

SUNDAY BIZ / B1

Tears flow in 'Wowowee' tribute to soldiers slain in the South; host Willie Revillame even reaches out to rival Joey de Leon to cool down heated war of words

NEWS / A2

Seoul said to have paid $20-M ransom; Taliban say money to be used for suicide attacks

WORLD / A23

A1 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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WEATHER FORECAST

'I'm not afraid of impeachment'

By Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS CHAIR BENJAMIN Abalos Sr. yesterday said he was ready to face a supposed impeachment case which some lawmakers were considering filing against him over a controversial $329-million telecommunications deal with China.

Abalos also told the business that should the deal involving the setting up of a national broadband network (NBN) sense the Philippines is found illegal and that it did not secure Comelec clearance, a case should be filed in court against all those involved.

"I'm not afraid because I did not do anything wrong," he said when asked about the reported impeachment threat.

Abalos declined having any hand in the negotiations between China and the Philippines to build the project.

In another development, former Iloilo Rep. Exdee Jaquilan has asked the Supreme Court to immediately issue a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the government's NBN contract with the Chinese ZTE Corp, China's third largest telecommunications firm which is backed by the Chinese government.

Jaquilan also asked the high court to immediately act on his earlier petition to nullify the deal.

The project aims to link government agencies throughout the country through a common electronic backbone.

Critics of the NBN deal said it was dubious because ZTE's offer was inferior to those of other interested parties, Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) and the UK-based Amsteem Inc. reportedly offered to build a similar network for only $242 million and $116 million, respectively.

Opposition Rep. Carlos Padilla, in a privilege speech, alleged Abalos brokered the deal and that Abalos was seen playing golf with ZTE officials in Manila and Shenzen, China.

Padilla also cited a newspaper columnist's article that a Comelec official...answered in the affirmative—had received lavish gifts and sumptuous boxes his Chinese hosts.

Terms apologized

Abalos said he was not longer amused by tweaking accusations that he brokered the project.

"Before, I considered these reports humorous because who are we influence such a big deal?" Abalos said. "Now, however, I'm hurt also because I'm not even a signatory to the contract and yet I'm being linked to it."

Abalos said he had called Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and that the latter supposedly apologized for saying that Abalos was present when the project came during a discussion at the Hitch week golf club in Mendiola-upon City.

"I recalled to him that we just met there by chance. He was with Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and I just saw them there and sat with them for a while. There was no detailed discussion, only introductions," Abalos said.

Why me? Abalos asks

Abalos said that in fairness to Teves, the finance secretary never said that it was he (Abalos) who arranged the meeting at Hitch week.

As president of the golf club, Abalos said that whenever he was at Hitch week, he often mentored with members and their guests.

"With so many VIPs I've spoken to and met at Hitch week, I might be accused of brokering a lot more deals," he added.

Abalos said he could not fathom why politicians and the media were keen on linking him to the controversial contract. He said he had genuine sympathy concerning speculation about his alleged robbery.

"It seems there is a concerted effort to destroy me and malign me. What have I done? Why is everybody after me?" he said.

Merely played golf

He said he never deserved being honored in newspapers about the NBN deal since he had nothing to do with it in the first place.

He said he only hosted ZTE officials at Hitch week and that he "simply returned the favor" by playing golf with them in China later on.

In his urgent motion, Jaquilan said there was a need for a TRO in the light of recent developments.

Implicated government officials were warning for the finalization of a $330-million loan from the Chinese Export-Import Bank to implement the ZTE contract.

ABALOS

Tears flow in 'Wowowee' tribute to dead soldiers

By Ricardo Papa

BATTLE HARDENED SOLDIERS WHO refused to tears yesterday on national television after the popular "Wowowee" show of ABS-CBN staged an emotional tribute for their comrades who were killed in Jolo and Basilan.

Around 400 soldiers were invited to yesterday's show and participated in the games, according to Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

But he said over 500 soldiers from the Army, Air Force, Marines, and Navy came along. Most invited were families of 30+ war soldiers who were slain in an ambush in Basilan last July 30, where 14 soldiers died, 10 of them beheaded. The family members brought along pictures of their fallen loved ones.

"Before the show, I told them we will just have fun and enjoy ourselves," Bacarro said.

But the show turned emotional when producers showed video images of soldiers in battle.

The show became touching when Inciong called on singer-a number, have shouted out Inocencio Pasion, whose son he joins was killed in Basilan.

No goodbye

Interviewed by Inciong, Asuncion recounted that the last talked to her son before he was deployed to Basilan. She said she never really said goodbye to Aspirin, who would have turned 23 years old on Oct. 3, and asked Bartolome if she could do that through a song on the show.

She sang her own adaptation of Eva Empress's "Buo Ang Daigdig Kung Wala Ka Na" dedicating it to her son and also as her personal tribute to the soldiers.

Bacarro's rendition reduced to tears the soldiers and their families who were in the studio.

"The soldiers started crying, the staff of the show started crying, even Willie cried. I didn't want to look in my teammates because I was afraid the tears would come down," Bacarro said. Nonetheless, he was caught on camera wiping away some tears.

"Walang matibay dito. (No one was tough enough for that.) We all had a heavy feeling," said Maj. Ginoy Zagala, the military's deputy spokesperson who came with Bacarro.

Zagala said the show reminded him of his days in combat. "When you are out there, you don't really grasp what your relatives feel when you die in the trenches. But today I saw how the relatives react when soldiers die."

Reaching out to Jinoy

Visibly touched by Bacarro's song, Bevil-lains also used the occasion to reach out to Jinoy de Leon, host of rival "Eat Bulaga" and who had engaged Bevillains in a recent word war. He sang the song, explaining that fights with his own words for "De Leon.

"Maghari na tayo sabay kalimutan! Pasensya na sa, nadala ng emosyon/ dune pa rin magmayaw/ dune ang nawa sa, nagmamayaw/ for dialogo ang tawag na mundo nga," wrote Bevillaner's song.

Later, Bevillains sang his own tribute to soldiers with a song composed by Ishmo Sarcino that spoke of love and unity while images of soldiers in battle flashed on the screen.

Again, tears flowed.

"I can empathize with the families. I had soldiers under my command die and it is hard to tell their families. That is worse. I had limb head and then pain," Bacarro said later.

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LUNG CARCINOMA
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BEFORE

AFTER

SUPRAGLOTTIC MASS
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CHEN GUANGCHENG: In prison for speaking up against abortions.

RM awardee's wife says she was pulled out of bus

BEIJING—THE WIFE OF AN IMPRISONED blind Chinese activist said Saturday she was dragged off a bus to stop her from traveling to Beijing to speak out on his behalf.

Yuan Weijing said she was on a bus from Shandong province to eastern China on Friday when it stopped and she was pulled off by a group of government workers.

Last week, Yuan was blocked by Chinese authorities from leaving for the Philippines, where she was to accept the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, on behalf of her husband, Chen Guangcheng.

Chen, 34, was sentenced to four years and three months in prison in 2006 after he documented cases of forced abortions and other abuses by family planning officials in his native Shandong.

"I think the purpose of this was to prohibit me from speaking out," Yuan said by phone from her village of Dongshigu in Shandong.

Seeking legal help

"There men and one woman got on the bus and they dragged me to get me off the bus," Yuan said.

She said she was going to Beijing to seek legal help after her husband was taken away when she was trying to go to the Philippines. She did not give details.

Yuan, 33, was taken back to her home early Saturday, and said about six people were standing in front of her house and outside their town limiting the entrance in the village.

She said she recognized the people who dragged her off the bus as being from her local government office.

A duty officer at the Shandong police office, who refused to give his name, said he had not heard of the case.

The activist against Yuan some the same days but a speech by her was read out at the Magsaysay awards ceremony in the Philippines accusing Beijing of violating human rights.

"In China, our government is often the biggest violator of people's rights," Yuan said in the speech. "Because Guangcheng organized to helping peasants safeguard their rights, he became the target of a brutal attack by some corrupt government officials."

Trumped-up charges

Yuan said her husband was convicted "based on trumped-up charges and a flawed trial process," at which villagers illegally were kidnapped and tortured to testify against him.

Chen was convicted on charges of instigating to attack on government offices in Dongshigu. Police said he was upset with workers sent to carry out poverty-relief programs.

Chen and a fellow Christian, Cheng Yi, jointly were the Magsaysay emergent leadership award. Chen, blinded by a fever as a child, became a "barefoot lawyer," helping farmers file court cases, leading to his arrest after he started helping paper factory and documenting abuses.

Cheng was recognized for his AIDS Orphans Project, which provides children who have an AIDS-infected parent with school fees.

Each Magsaysay winner receives a gold medallion with an image of the former Philippine president after which the award is named, plus $50,000. AP

GMA asks Congress to work for progress

By Julier Ledesma Jacobara

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday appealed to Congress to join her in fighting poverty, waging peace and working for political stability after economy decompiled the second quarter's robust growth of 7.5 percent, saying it failed to create jobs for the poor.

Ms Arroyo, in her arrival statement from Malaysia, made the appeal after Senate President Manuel Villar and Sen. Blas Ople said the high growth passed by the economy in the second quarter might be impressive, but means little to jobless urban dwellers and low-income farmers.

"The statistics from our National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) shows that our economic roadmap is unfolding as it should, and right on schedule," the President said.

"From Third World to First World, this is the only journey worth taking," she said.

"I call on our people and their representatives in Congress to work for progress and unite for peace, so that it really we can leave the shame of poverty and political instability behind us," Ms Arroyo said.

She said the experience of Malaysia and other Asian neighbors showed that the Philippines can become a rich nation.

"Our GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth shows that we can prosper, and that in fact, we are on our way to better times, as long as we stay on course and fight poverty as 'Team Philippines,'" Ms Arroyo said.

The President arrived at 9:15 a.m. yesterday from an overnight trip to Kuala Lumpur where she attended the celebration of Malaysia's 50th anniversary of independence.

"When I left Manila on Thursday afternoon, I brought with me very good news for my fellow Filipinos in Malaysia—the latest indicators showing that the Philippine economy registered its highest growth rate of 7.5 percent in two decades during the first half of this year," Ms Arroyo said.

The President met with the Filipino community in Malaysia before joining other state heads of state in the festivities for Malaysia's golden anniversary.

"I personally thanked Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah Badawi and other Malaysian government officials for their support in the exploratory talks between the government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and for the extension of the International Monitoring Team's (IMT) stay in the Philippines," she said.

GSIS head says sorry for e-Card glitches

News, page A1

with business editors and columnists last Thursday.

Garcia, whose leadership has been under attack amid massive complaints of delayed payments of pensions and benefits of GSIS members, said the computerization of the GSIS's systems through the introduction of the electronic identification card (e-Card) has stalled irregularities spawned by the manual system.

He cited such anomalous practices as checks being issued to GSIS members who are already dead. He said some people were engaged in rechecking, or buying GSIS-issued checks at a 5- to 15-percent discount.

But with the GSIS having gone electronic, many people were losing their sources of kickbacks, he said. And this was the reason why some would not be supportive of, or would even sabotage, the automation project, Garcia said.

While initially adamant that the complaints were only due to some glitches in the system and that they were coming from a small portion of the GSIS's 1.4 million membership, Garcia eventually agreed that the problem was worse than he would like to portray it.

The business has been swamped by complaints from GSIS pensioners and active members from all over the country who said they were having a difficult time accessing loans or getting their pension checks.

The complaints had been the subject of several articles by the paper's columnists.

Many of the complainants said they could not use their e-Cards because the GSIS kiosks were down. They said they had taken their concerns to the GSIS to no avail, and had gone to the media as a last resort.

Acc on complaints in 18 days

He said he would make sure that GSIS staff and officials concerned would be charged administratively if they fail to act on complaints within 20 days upon filing.

He also said the GSIS would work on improving its systems to solve inefficiencies in the delivery of services.

Garcia has also been assailed on other issues involving his stewardship of the pension fund, such as the allegedly irregular award of the e-Card contract to Union Bank and Garcia's filing of court charges against the host-municipal social room (SAT) of the Commission on Audit which came out with a report questioning certain practices of the GSIS.

Garcia told the business gathering that Union Bank won the contract over several banks, including the funds of the Philippine Islands, which is one of the country's top 10 banks in terms of earnings.

Why Union Bank won contract

He explained that Union Bank won the contract because it only required a P1-billion maintaining balance for the GSIS, lower than the P1.5-billion required by BPI. He said Union Bank was also aggressive in making an offer to the GSIS, while BPI was not as interested.

"Union Bank went and only three financial units but the representatives [in their technical group. They were able to answer all our technical questions about their facility for the GSIS e-Card," Garcia said.

BPI only sent a lone technical team and could not satisfy the GSIS's technical questions, he said.

As for the Land Bank of the Philippines, he said the state-owned bank did not have the facilities for the e-Card. The award of the e-Card project to Union Bank had the effect of LandBank, the GSIS's depository bank since the 1990s, losing the deposits to the much smaller Union Bank.

"IT'S A SEVEN, a list of 10s, many people want one out," GSIS president Winston Garcia tells longtime editors and reporters on dinner.

The LandBank only offered an ATM system where GSIS members may use ATM cards to withdraw loans and pensions, Garcia explained.

But when the GSIS wanted was an e-Card facility for access not as an ATM but a debit card. Its card debit card accounts, unlike ATM accounts, do not require a maintaining balance for clients.

'Malicious'

Addressing the issue of the COA team, Garcia said the SAT report was malicious and politically motivated.

He said many people wanted him out of the GSIS. "It [also] is a game, a hate of life," he said.

Among the findings of the SAT report was that the GSIS e-Card project did not go through a bidding process.

The SAT also questioned the unusually high compensation and benefit packages of GSIS officials and Garcia's multimillion cash advances involving discretionary allowances without receipts.

The report, which the SAT submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman, became the basis of an investigation by the House of Representatives in the last Congress but the committee on good governance and public accountability ended its inquiry without filing charges against Garcia and other officials.

The GSIS has filed three administrative cases and three criminal cases against the SAT with the Office of the Ombudsman, which also has yet to act on the SAT report.

The GSIS also filed a civil case for damages against the SAT in Cebu, Garcia's home province, and another case for indirect contempt against SAT supervisor Leonor Bitado with the Court of Appeals.

Advances legitimate

At the business meeting, Garcia insisted his advances were all legitimate and supported by receipts.

He said the settling up of a SAT was meant to discredit him. Garcia said there was no need for a special audit team because there was already a resident COA auditor at the GSIS.

"It should not have gone to the point if there was no intention of maligning me," Garcia said.

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BROADBAND

Comelec hits Bedol lawyer

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS yesterday scored the lawyer of former Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol for saying that the latter's camp expected the poll body to uphold its earlier decision to convict Bedol for contempt.

Comelec spokesperson Jhose Jimenez said Bedol's lawyer Andrei Tagum showed his contempt for the Comelec after he admitted that Bedol was "full-reporting" the Comelec to junk his motion for reconsideration.

"If we go by the history of the commission, I don't think they have ever reversed their decision because that would be an admission that they erred," Tagum was quoted as saying in media reports.

Tagum said Bedol would exit the Supreme Court to overturn the Comelec's decision.

Jimenez explained that "when a quasi-judicial body such as the Comelec declines to reverse its decision on a motion for reconsideration, "it is because the arguments in the motion do not justify reversal, or because the motion failed to present any new arguments, that is, different from—or perhaps better than—those that led to the original adverse decision."

"It strikes me as being extremely arrogant for defeated lawyers to claim that the tribunal before which they are arguing is composed of petty tyrants who would rather perpetuate an injustice than to admit their error," he added.

Comelec started on Bedol a six-month jail term and a fine of P1,000 after he was found guilty of four counts of indirect contempt.

The case stemmed from his failure to attend the scheduled canvassing of Maguindanao votes and the hearing of Task Force Maguindanao—which looked into alleged poll cheating in the province, as well as his unlawful assumption of custody of poll documents which he eventually lost, his challenge to the Comelec to sue him for his admission, and for boasting to media that he had a cache of firearms. —Jerome Aning

Bulacan cop chief told to stay put

By Alcuin Papa

SAN RAFAEL, BULACAN, PROVINCIAL police commander Senior Supt. Arbor Dolina has been ordered to stay put after local officials petitioned for his removal.

Interior and Local Government secretary Ronaldo Puno already wanted Bulacan local officials that they could be charged with violating the law if they persist in having Dolina replaced.

He said the Philippine National Police assigned Dolina in Bulacan to implement its "peace and order programs" and that it was the duty of local government officials to support him.

"A withdrawal of support for a legitimate peace and order program is tantamount to the dereliction of their duties," Puno said, adding that the violation constitutes an administrative violation.

He said it was "wrong" of local officials to pick their police commanders. "The police are not their retinal boys. They are supposed to be partners in public service. The era of private armies is over."

Besides, he said the choice of police commanders belongs solely to the PNP.

Puno added that if local officials had any complaint against their police commanders, they should let the matter be handled by the PNP.

Last Friday, Bulacan local officials filed a petition for the removal of Dolina because of his alleged lackluster performance in fighting crime in the province. The officials also called for the return of Supt. Jesus Catalinas. The petition was signed by Bulacan Gov. Josefina Mendoza and 21 other mayors. The officials also filed a petition before the Bulacan courts.

But Puno said Catalinas would never be returned to Bulacan.

"If they have any complaints (against Dolina), they should put it in writing and submit it to the Napolcom (National Police Commission). I am just here, they can come and talk to me anytime," Puno said, noting that most of the Bulacan officials were members of his political party, Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), which he chairs.

Puno said he heard rumors that Dolina had conflicts with some of the local officials. He did not elaborate.

For his part, Dolina said he would really move to another post. "But they (local officials) don't understand the (selection) process."

He also said he was willing to submit himself to an investigation of any wrongdoing.

We're in the business of

saving lives.

Facts you need to know about breastfeeding.

Breastfeeding is the single most cost-effective measure to prevent child deaths.

Worldwide, scientific experts agree that breastfeeding saves lives.

According to the Lancet Child Survival Series 2003[1], 19% of all underfive deaths worldwide can be prevented through optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

Optimal breastfeeding means:

- initiate breastfeeding within an hour after birth
- exclusive breastfeeding for six months
- continue breastfeeding while giving safe, affordable and indigenous complementary foods, for two years and beyond

In the Philippines, about 82,000 underfive children die every year. Therefore, optimal breastfeeding could prevent 16,200 deaths yearly.

Globally, optimal breastfeeding can prevent 1.3 million child deaths.

[1]The Lancet is the world's leading independent medical journal. Founded 180 years ago, The Lancet is an authoritative voice in global medicine. 'Our commitment to international health ensures that research and analysis from all regions of the world is widely covered' (www.thelancet.com/about).

Compared to breastfed children, formula-fed children have increased risks for sickness, death and lower IQ.

Compared to breastfed babies, formula-fed babies have:

- a five-fold risk of diarrhoea[2] and 16.7-fold risk of pneumonia[3] – two of the main causes of deaths among Filipino children
- 40-50% increased risk of developing asthma and wheeze[4]
- IQ 3-7 points lower, up to adulthood[5]

Even in developed countries with good hygiene and clean water, breastfed babies had[6]:

- 50% reduction of acute ear infection
- 64% reduction in the risks of non-specific gastroenteritis
- 72% reduction in the risk of hospitalization due to lower respiratory tract diseases

[2] Popkin BM et al. Breastfeeding and diarrheal morbidity. Pediatrics. 1990 Dec; 86(6): 874-82.

[3] Leon-Cava N, Quantifying the benefits of breastfeeding: A summary of the evidence. Pan American Health Organization. 2002; Edmond KM, Zandoh C, Quigley MA, Pediatrics. 2006; 117:380-384; Oscar JA, Victoria CG, Barros FC) et al. Impact of breastfeeding on admission for pneumonia during postneonatal period in Brazil: Nested case-control study. British Medical Journal 1999; 318:1316-20.

[4] Dell S, To T. Breastfeeding and asthma in young children. Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine 2001;155:1261-1265; and, Oddy WH et al. Maternal asthma, infant feeding, and the risk for asthma in childhood. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology 2002;110:65-67.

[5] WHO, Evidence on the long-term effects of breastfeeding: systematic reviews and meta-analysis, 2007.

[6] Tufts-New England Medical Center Evidence-Based Practice Center, 2007).

More children in the Philippines should receive the benefits of optimal breastfeeding.

The National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) provides the most accurate means of measuring breastfeeding. In 2003 NDHS[1]:

- 13.5% of infants are never breastfed – making the Philippines the worst compared to 56 countries.
- 54% of women breastfeed within 1 hour of birth. Again, this is one of the lowest breastfeeding initiation rates in the world.
- By 4-5 months, only 16% are exclusively breastfed.
- 39% of infants use infant formula in the first year of life. Of these, 28% belong to families living on less than P100 a day.

The World Health Assembly recognizes that the marketing of breastmilk substitutes requires special treatment, because of "the vulnerability of infants ... and the risks involved in inappropriate feeding practices"[2].

The Philippines is a member of the World Health Assembly and a signatory of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

[1] National Statistics Office (Philippines) and ORC Macro. 2004. National Demographic and Health Survey 2003.

[2] WHO. International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, 1981.

Department of Health | World Health Organization | United Nations Children's Fund

The big reveal: How model cities govern

From page A1

They share the power and responsibilities of governance with those who have stakes in their communities and institutions, involving them every step of the way to reach commonly agreed aims and targets.

PGS-proficient

Tagbilaran, Malolos and San Fernando were recognized as politically governance-savvy PGS-proficient cities at the two-day 2007 Public Governance Forum in Pasay City last week, dubbed the "Bidal Ko Ang Pilipinas! (I Love the Philippines) forum.

They were three of 24 cities that adopted the PGS system, which is an adaptation of a corporate governance tool called the "balanced scorecard system," a strategic approach that directly connects the objectives of a company or local government to its operations.

Introduced by the International Solidarity in Asia (ISA) in 2004, the PGS is also being promoted in 11 provinces and six national public institutions. The ISA is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit institution which seeks to improve public governance.

PMA tie

"A PGS-proficient city means that these cities have mayors that are committed towards good governance; that they have highly involved constituents and sectoral groups, and that their governments have discipline and are transparent," said ISA chair and president Jesus F. Estanislao.

The Philippine Military Academy under its superintendent, Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, was also recognized as a PGS-proficient institution.

Estanislao said that while Filipinos are used to blaming their leaders for the inadequacies and failures of government, the PGS system enables both leaders and citizens to think past government paternalism and favor instead an active citizen participation. This is what makes good public governance sustainable, he said.

The ISA has partnered with the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and the National Competitiveness Council to "aid cities in enabling programs that will push the competitiveness rating of the country."

It has also teamed up with the ADB to develop "tools to gauge and track a city's progress" and with the Netherlands government to "entrain the institutionalization of the PGS in select Philippine cities."

The PGS will be one of five case studies to be featured in the Global Public Sector Summit in Washington, D.C. in October.

Marikina's vision

Being PGS-proficient means Marikina, Tagbilaran and San Fernando are about six months to one year away from institutionalizing the PGS in their own public governance systems.

The just-outgoing cities started off three years ago by drafting their objectives and plans for their cities.

The ISA conducts a twice a year audit of the participating cities and groups to see if they are on the way toward achieving their goals.

Marikina's vision for itself is to become a model city in competitiveness, not just in the Philippines, but in the northeast Asia by 2015. In her presentation, Fernando said that Marikina was making towards this goal, using such indicators as honest, transparent and business-friendly governance, a clean and green environment, efficient delivery of basic services, good infrastructure and financial stability.

The low medical and dental services at the health center is one of the concrete results of the PGS system in Marikina. The privilege card is an example of how the people's issues are speaking for them, she said.

The city has also telecasted 30,000 birthdays and is on its way towards being separate fees by 2010, she said.

Fernando said business permits have been streamlined to encourage businesses to locate and invest in the city to create more jobs. The city is also aiming to eradicate unemployment in three years.

Tagbilaran aims to become a prime ecotourism hub by 2015, in line with this, Lim said the city is focusing on environmental protection to preserve the marine protected areas of Bohol.

Tagbilaran tops quality of life

He said the city has already rehabilitated about 80 percent of its total 'roof' power. It has reclaimed solid waste disposal by 20 percent, with 65 percent of the city's residents practicing segregation of solid waste at source.

Tagbilaran was also one of the first cities to phase out the two-stroke engine in tricycles through a cash-for-trade-in program that drives its bus on installment to more environmentally friendly four-stroke engine.

The Tagbilaran city government has also provided indigent families with the Blue Card that entitles them to free hospitalization in the city's two major hospitals. Lim said the program brings to 90 percent the number of city residents with health insurance coverage.

Tagbilaran also topped the Asian Institute of Management's recent quality of life survey among cities with a population of 200,000 and below.

San Fernando and the pond

San Fernando's stated goal is to become the regional growth center of the Central Luzon region. It has streamlined local government policy and practices to make it conducive for foreign and local businesses to locate there. It succeeded in attracting about P4B million in new investments in 2006.

The city's renowned pond (Christmas lantern) has been chosen by the national government as the model for the "one town-one product" project in 2008, aimed at marketing the product in the world market.

Rodriguez also said that some 6,000 urban families affected by the construction of the Marikand project are being resettled by the city government.

The city government is also funding the education of some 6,000 scholars who are receiving information and communication technology (ICT) training so they can compete for jobs locally and abroad.

The city has also built 15 school buildings to accommodate 100,000 students in the next 10 years through the city's special education fund, Rodriguez said.

People's commitment

At the PBEA case, Maligalig said the shift to long-term institutional development has, among others, improved the success rate of graduates from 30.8 percent to 64 percent.

The mayors of the three cities agreed that the secret of making public governance work is the people's commitment towards achieving a vision for their city.

"Our people have an open mind and an open heart. This comes from the collective effort of the people," said Lim.

It is having capable constituents who know enough to put the right person in a position of leadership, said Fernando.

Good governance is just the commitment of both the people and their leader towards achieving a vision for their city, according to Rodriguez.

Ma'am, it is simply "loving your own city."

Essentially participating

"Governance is essentially participatory. It is not only of those at the top, it is also a responsibility of those in the middle and at the bottom. It is the concern of everyone. It is a matter for both the governors and the governed," said Estanislao.

At the end of the day the PGS system shows that doing good pays, he said.

The principles of governance are not hard to reach concepts; they are, rather, basic ethical principles, said author-speaker at the forum.

The governance principles of transparency and disclosure are just echoes of the commandments "Thou shall not lie" and "Thou shall not steal," he said.

SWS survey: Pardon Erap, say 48% of Metro folk

From page A1

said they didn't know how to respond.

The Sandiganbayan decision on Estrada's plunder case is widely expected to be handed down in the next two weeks.

The special division created to try the former President has 90 days to decide on his fate from the time the trial ended in June. The 90-day period ends on Sept. 13.

The study was conducted by the SWS from July 18 to July 28 in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal.

GMA has the power

There were 600 respondents—300 from the metropolitan area, 80 from Bulacan, 80 from Cavite, 75 from Laguna and 70 from Rizal.

The survey had an error margin of plus or minus four percent.

The respondents were asked the following question in Filipino: "President Arroyo has the power to give pardon to whomever is convicted of a crime. If even the Sandiganbayan declares former President Estrada guilty of the crime of plunder, in your opinion, should President Arroyo give pardon immediately, pardon after some time or not at all?"

Sentiment among D and E

The survey showed that 47 percent and 56 percent of respondents from classes D and E, respectively, wanted Estrada to be pardoned immediately.

Thirty-one percent from the classes ABC had the same sentiment.

According to the survey, 48 percent of those from classes ABC believed Estrada should be pardoned "after some time."

Classes ABC

The highest number of respondents who didn't want Estrada pardoned came from classes ABC, with 17 percent.

Those from classes D and E, who didn't want Estrada pardoned represented 12 percent from each group.

Fifty percent of the respondents from Metro Manila wanted Estrada pardoned immediately while 47 percent of the respondents from the nearby provinces believed the same way.

No pardon, at all

Thirty-six percent from Metro Manila wanted him pardoned after some time while 39 percent from the nearby areas also wanted it that way.

Only 23 percent from the metropolitan area wanted him not pardoned at all, and 12 percent from the adjacent provinces also wanted him to stay in jail.

Erap wants no clemency

Estrada's plunder case arose from his alleged involvement in the illegal numbers game "Jueteng"—an allegation that led to his impeachment in late 2000 and eventual ouster in a People Power revolt in January 2001.

The former President has said that he doesn't want executive clemency from Mrs Arroyo, saying a presidential pardon is only for the guilty.

"Why should I accept executive clemency? I am not guilty of anything," Estrada said in one of his interviews.

Estrada has expressed belief that his defense has done a good job of demolishing the accusations of the prosecution, particularly those made by the chief whistleblower and his former drinking pal, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson.

64% trust ruling

Estrada has said that his only fear is that political pressure might play a role in the decision to be rendered by the Sandiganbayan magistrates.

The SWS survey commissioned by the opposition also showed that Estrada continued to enjoy much more trust among the people than his successor.

The poll results showed Estrada enjoying a high trust rating, with 64 percent of the respondents saying they had "much trust" in the former president.

Nineteen percent of the respondents said they had "little trust" in him. The remaining 16 percent were undecided.

Eighteen percent of those surveyed said they had "much trust" in Ms Arroyo and 62 percent said they had "little trust" in her. Nineteen percent were undecided.

'Komiks' by Caparas returns big-time

From page A1

(edition would don't slip.)

Honors for the dead

When President Macapagal-Arroyo gave in February the Presidential Medals of Merit to the five pillars of komiks—Tony Velasquez, Francisco V. Coching, Mars Ravelo, Larry Alcala and Caparas—it was like laying wreaths on tombs, as four of those people had already died, and so had the komiks.

People who grew up on it and have become busy adults do not realize that their favorite medium of entertainment, information and indoctrination as youngsters had long vanished from the cultural landscape. It was mostly blamed on the overwhelmness of TV culture and the Internet.

Billion-peso industry

In its heyday, komiks was a billion-peso industry and was said to be even bigger than the movie industry. The two combined for decades as their relationship was often symbiotic, like with the coming of the so-called "alternative platforms" from which to access information and entertainment, there was no way for the komiks to go but up.

From an average circulation of nearly 200,000 copies a week in 1994, with half of the 200 komiks making money, it dropped to 1,200 in 2000 with only one circulating, Atlas Publishers' *Pilipino Komiks*. That year, the lone survivor had to close.

And it wasn't the only ailing mass medium, either. Similar signs could be seen in newspapers which were also reeling from diminishing circulation.

Wild idea

Newspapers have since been taking various innovative measures to sell copies, short of resorting to a buy-one-take-one promo. Some do tie-ups with hamburger chains, others sponsor celebrity events.

The success, true to its corporate image (remember A-B and Kipper C readership), goes to the soul of the problem and tries to solve the twin evils of illiteracy and diminishing readership.

One program being held in its premises is a series of reading sessions for kids, including street children and physically handicapped kids. It aims to cultivate a new generation of readers and make reading attractive again.

The buyback also struck on a solid idea: To bring back readership and get a broader mass base, why not run komiks stories in the paper? What's more, the rare mass medium(s) would be helping each other.

And so the buyback went to Caparas. After all, the guy has written over 800 novels and movie scripts for komiks, and some 150 newspaper essays of which he himself declared.

Last Tuesday, Caparas signed a contract to write for the nation's No. 1 newspaper what is now called a "shorts novels," with art by Arnel S. Acevedo.

Caparas says a commissioner from the Bureau of Internal Revenue has...

"KOMIKS RELIEF". The dynamic team of Komiks King Carlo J. Caparas and writer-collaborator Rene Villa take a break in Hong Kong from their hectic schedule revising the komiks as a source of information and entertainment.

...Komiquest ng Wika has asked him to revive the komiks as it can greatly help people learn the national language.

In the caravan he is doing with wife Donna Villa in the provinces, where he gives lectures and workshops on komiks writing and illustrating, he has seen how people have wanted the komiks to return.

Early this year, in a reunion of komiks writers, illustrators and various heirs/ executors of the deceased industry, he learned of the plight of his colleagues who lost their jobs. "Out of 30 people no kinumusta ko, eight had already died (One or 18 people I asked about, eight had already died)," he recalls.

The Bulacan senator may prove to be a blessing in disguise. It could all or ours exploit workers and mediocrities—komiks, newspaper and movie. "They got hand in hand," says Caparas.

Source materials for movies

The movie industry is clearly also on a decline. But with the revival of the komiks, the former whose executives and movie directors could find re-activate their art, or re-use the old catch people like Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal?

"Why foothold ang robots in komiks dapat ipagawa sa publisher (Should have a foothold in comics before they become movies)," says Caparas.

He means a movie based on komiks would already have a built-in readership, which could then translate into a box office hit.

And a revived industry, of course, would generate jobs. After all, the komiks has not really died. It was just in a three-year coma.

Magdalo cooks up another coup: A soldier's cookbook

From page A1

Navy Ensigns Elmer D. Cruz and Emerson R. Rosales, both bachelors, who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 2000.

Their recipes tell stories from their childhood, from years at the PMA, from stints at sea, from days in detention and the tedious court martial hearing which has been ongoing for more than four years, and from their yearning to be free.

Like the Oakwood mutiny which was participated in by soldiers from the Navy, Army, Air Force and Marines, "Pulutan" is also a composite adventure.

Among the featured recipes is "Calmeirao a la Tillanes," one tribute to Navy lieutenant, now Gen. Antonio Trillanes IV (it was one of "five mugs of beer," or an A-1 dish.

THE 'IRON CHEFS': Navy Ensigns Elmer D. Cruz (left) and Emerson R. Rosales, both PMA graduates and bachelors authored the book.

Life after detention

Going on a big eating-and-drinking "gimik" over they are released is a part they have made among themselves, said 26-year-old Cruz.

"Looking forward to: Life after detention is something that motivates us to," he says in the book's "Final Pulutan" section.

"In detention, mayroonnaitin an quite a special meaning," Rosales also added in the AFP section.

For his 26th birthday in 2000, Rosales said he wanted to serve something different, from the usual dishes in the detention: fine of spaghetti and fried chicken.

He thought of his father's "Bicol Express," but the ingredients brought, and ended to with the entire detention population hovering nearby.

"Drinking, of course, is not allowed in detention. But that didn't prevent us from having a great meal," Rosales, a dog breeder and proprietor of the Great Outdoor Emporium, said.

'Iron chef'

The authors said they learned cooking as an art and adventure from their chairmen and fellow detainee, Ensign Cesar Hongan Jr., dubbed "our iron chef."

Banned from using cellular phones and the Internet, Rosales and Cruz said they solicited the recipes from other rebel soldiers during visitors' days, and from outside the recipes at the kitchen in Fort Bonifacio.

Parents, girlfriends, siblings, families and friends who visit them also gave their inputs, and raw/cooked ingredients so that the detainees could try out the recipes before printing, Rosales and Cruz said.

Rosales said that the raw and exotic dish, "Kinilaw na Tamilok (wood-lovers)," for instance, was contributed by Chito, the wife of detained Ensign Jeff Gaspichenan. Kinilaw is an upbeat-dish in Palawan, cooked in a woodworm's that feeds on mangrove wood, Rosales said.

Looking for publisher

"The contributors have tried out the recipes in their book and make their 'lessons' as clients. As to the state of their conscience, that is an altogether different matter," the radicals wrote.

It was also during a break in the court hearings that detained Air Force Lt. Ashley Acedillo and Makati reluctantly Efren Sedeldo, ate about his friends who were looking for a publisher for their cookbook.

Tordesillas said Acedillo introduced her to Cruz and Rosales, who showed her their handbound compilation of pulutan recipes titled "Pulutan de' Bolights." Tordesillas influenced Kudos Publishing Inc. to publish the cookbook.

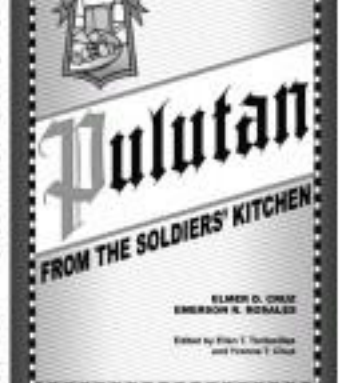
Destabilizing palate

Acedillo had suggested jazzing up the cookbook with anecdotes, which the authors managed to write. They then passed the manuscripts to counsel to Tordesillas during one court hearing.

Tordesillas said Arroyo agreed to publish it under a "better, more commercial" title. The recipes were also subjected to a kitchen test by Arroyo's food experts, who recommended that they cross down the spiciness of some dishes because it was "destabilizing to the palate."

"There was so much sibling rivalry (native chili pepper) in some dishes," said Tordesillas, who edited the book with Veronica Uhan.

And because it was felt that politics and gastronomy do not mix, Tordesillas said the editors' cookbook does not feature "seditious" recipes such as "Camaron Imperial," "Grilled flesh competent dolorion," "Bloodless mutiny Ma. L," "Sapsapping Bugoto ni Palaypalay" or "Barrowed/Appropriation a la Ginoto (with a twist)."



SOBERING: "Drumsarde Delights," used to be the title of the detained soldiers' cookbook. Which might have destabilized its marketability.

BALINESE ROOF SHAKES
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Homebuilders are now turning to designs that capture the natural beauty of the forests and islands of Southeast Asia.

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Multi-Line has the roofing material exactly for that design: Metrotiles.

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Made of pressure-sprayed New Zealand Metrotiles comes a warranty of 30 years.

That's something you don't expect from a roofing that will survive the Asian hot sun, typhoons and (although) rains of tall water by the dozens.

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Simply Creative

DOH, hospitals set talks to avert 'holiday'

By Jerome Aning and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TOP HEALTH OFFICIALS WILL HOLD A dialogue on Wednesday with members of the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines to convince them to call off their planned "hospital holiday" this month to protest a new law prohibiting hospitals from demanding money payments.

In a radio interview over dzRH, Health Secretary Francisco Duque appealed to PHAP members to take pity on sick people that would be affected by the holiday.

"I think the move will affect many patients. The DOH and local governments units, of course, can take up the slack but it won't send a good message if our hospitals are to go on holiday," Duque said.

Philhealth-accredited

He reminded PHAP that its member hospitals have accreditation agreements with the Philippine Health Insurance Office (Philhealth) and these Philhealth members are in need of medical services. PHAP has about 188 member hospitals.

But Duque added that public hospitals could cope with an increase in outpatient consultations once the hospital holiday begins.

On Friday, PHAP spokesperson Rustico Jimenez said the group was planning to push through with their hospital holiday beginning this month, adding that it may last until 2008.

Jimenez, however, assured patients they would still attend to emergency cases, and would only reserve the right not to treat "semi-emergency" outpatient cases.

He also said that the public would be informed of the scheduled hospital holiday one week in advance.

Under the plan, Jimenez said, participating private hospitals will reject nonemergency cases for one to two days every month starting this September until the law is repealed.

PHAP wants the government to repeal a law allowing patients who have not settled their bills to be discharged from the hospital by the time signing promissory notes.

Hospital's protection

"We want that law repealed or amended to protect hospitals. Otherwise, hospitals will run out of doctors and nurses who would leave because they need salary. We know that in most cases, promissory notes are not paid," Jimenez said.

PHAP's threat to declare a hospital holiday appears to be working in their favor.

One of the principal sponsors of the new law in the Senate has already abandoned her hardline stance in the face of the planned boycott.

Sen. Pilar Juliana "Pia" Cayetano said she was now willing to amend Republic Act 9439 or the Hospital Detention Law, so long as the PHAP calls off their planned "hospital holiday."

"For my part, I am open to a dialogue with them on possible amendments to include specific provisions to protect their financial viability," Cayetano said in a statement.

Her lawmaker insisted the newly signed law has enough "safeguards" against abusers by patients who do not settle their bills.

PHAP's 188 members which include some of the biggest hospitals in Metro Manila, had planned to go on a "hospital holiday" last May but the Department of Health convinced them to participate to for reviewing the law's implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

"We are not satisfied with the IRR. We made recommendations but they rejected it. The law and the IRR are one-sided. They do not provide protection to hospitals," Jimenez has said.

But Cayetano said that the law's implementing rules and regulations have yet to be finalized.

She also pointed out that the new law applies only to charity patients and does not cover paying patients or those in private rooms.

DUQUE

Debt, population growth keeping us poor–Lagman

By Norman Bordadora

MASSIVE DEBT SERVICING and rapid population growth have kept the country's poor from enjoying the fruits of what the President claims to be a record economic growth rate, according to Rep. Edcel Lagman of the House budget panel.

Lagman, chair of the House budget panel for the next year and a half, said he intends to scrutinize Malacañang's budget proposal for debt payments that stood at almost P388 billion—a considerable portion of the P1.1-trillion plan.

"Economic growth should be complemented by a comprehensive national policy on reproductive health and population management as well as innovative or alternative modes of debt reduction and condonation," Lagman said in statements.

"The chief executive can think of creative ways to ease our debt burden; [as] many countries are already enjoying debt condonation," he said.

Lagman said he's amenable to Speaker Jose de Venecia's proposal for debt swap schemes that would mean reduced obligations if the country allocates funds for Millennium Development Goals such as less distance of poverty and improved ecology.

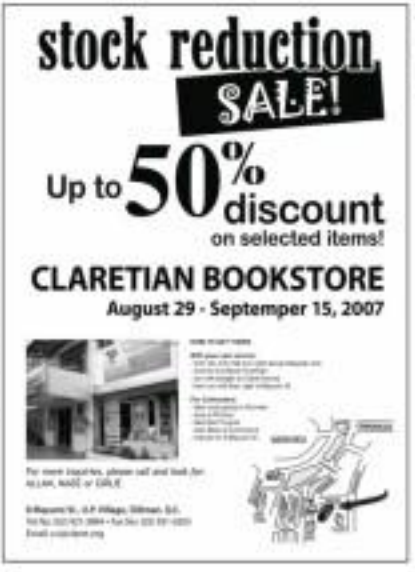
Despite an existing law giving automatic appropriation for debt servicing, Lagman said he would push for a "selective automatic appropriation."

He has refiled in the 14th Congress a bill that seeks to repeal the law mandating automatic appropriations for debt payments.

An advocate of population control, Lagman has also filed a bill providing for a national policy on reproductive health, responsible parenthood and population development.

Toledonians and poverty cannot be overcome by economic growth alone if the population problem and debt servitude are not addressed," Lagman said.

"If we are able to effectively mitigate population explosion and reduce debt service, economic growth will not only enable the country to also cascade to the grassroots," he said.



BOSS! AT HOME
Rather grim: Bienvenido Beltran (left), who was kidnapped in Pagsanjan, Zamboanga Sibugay and released after 29 days, looks recovered from his experience, sharing laughs with Fr. Antonio Mauri in the square of the Loreto Shrine on Friday. Beltran is scheduled to meet with Pope Benedict XVI today in attending a youth meeting on Sept. 1. Dir Loreto, central Italy. AFP

OFWs are proof of eco boom–Noli

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES WILL BECOME THE "next success story in Asia" despite political bickerings as long as the economy maintains its present growth course, according to Vice President Noli de Castro.

Answering critics who questioned the veracity of government's 7.5 percent second quarter growth figure, De Castro said the growing number of Filipinos employed abroad was proof of an economic boom.

The Vice President, speaking during the Centro Escolar University's Centennial Quality Awarding ceremonies in Manila yesterday, predicted even better days ahead because of what he said was "the quality of education that students were getting from schools today."

"Our educational system continues to produce quality graduates who can make it abroad," said De Castro, who is also the Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

He cited the benefits of having more OFWs, adding that Filipinos were live in a global economy where opportunities are open to all. Remittances from overseas workers have greatly benefited the country.

On his radio program, "Ano Sa Iyo, Bayan," De Castro defended the government's growth report. He said that although cynics doubted the figures, developments, particularly in the countryside, showed.

GDP is the value of goods produced and services rendered, excluding remittances from abroad.

De Castro admitted that the reported 7.5 percent growth, the highest in 20 years, had not yet trickled down to the poor. But he added that it was a good start.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, when she announced the latest growth figures, said the Philippines was on its way to becoming a Tiger Pero(Lesion.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 2, 2007
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Sirac 3: 17-18, 20, 28-29
Homily removed.

My son, conduct your affairs with discretion and you will be loved by those who are acceptable to God.

The greater you are, the more you should humble yourself and that you will find favor with God. For great is the power of the Lord and it is from humble who give him glory.

For the sufferings of the proud none there is no remedy, for roots of evil are implanted in him. The wise man reflects in proverbs. What the wise man desires is an attentive ear.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24
Thursday of the living God.

What you have come to is nothing known to the touch: not heat of scorching fire, darkness and gloom and storms, blasts of trumpets to such a voice that the people pleaded that no further word be spoken.

But you come near to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem with its innumerable angels. You have come to the solemn feast, the assembly of the firstborn of God, whose names are written in heaven. There is God, Judge of all, with the spirits of the upright brought to perfection. There is Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, with the sprinkled blood that is not unworthy than Abel's.

Gospel: Luke 14: 1, 7-14
The homily will be omitted.

One Sabbath Jesus had gone to eat a meal in the house of a leading Pharisee, and he was carefully watched.

Jesus then told a parable to the guests, for he had noticed how they tried to take the places of honor. And he said, "When you are invited to a wedding party, do not choose the best seat. It may happen that someone more important than you has been invited, and your host, who invited both of you, will come and say to you: 'Please give this person your place.' Then shame is yours when you take the lowest seat!

"Whenever you are invited, go rather to the lowest seat, so that your host may come and say to you: 'Friend, you must come up higher.' And then will be a great honor for you in the presence of all the other guests. For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be raised."

Jesus also addressed the man who had invited him and said: "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, or your brothers and relatives and wealthy neighbors. For surely they will also invite you in return and you will be repaid. When you give a feast, invite instead the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Fortunate are you then, because they can't repay you; you will be repaid at the Resurrection of the upright."

Commentary:
We are told to be humble, and to listen (meaning to obey), and to give alms generously, because they atone for sin...basic human advice that is useful to all people. We, however, have chosen ways to live in Jesus true life, resurrection, holiness and mercy as disciples of old. We have come close to the promise only that believe in the Risen Lord, the Word made flesh. We are the honored and beloved children of God at the banquet table of the Kingdom of Heaven, peace, and mercy for all.

Jesus' story tells us how we are to live, with humility, not putting ourselves first, and not making sure that we are in the places of honor or are acknowledged in public for what we do or who we are. We are to be among the least, to serve, eat with, and dwell among those at the bottom. And we are to invite and make friends with those no one remembers in order to the feast of the Lord and to a life of abundance and justice. We should be pleased to do as much as we can for those who cannot repay us (that is the way we are with God).

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Fraport seeks annulment of WB verdict on Naia 3

FRANKFURT—FRAPORT AIRPORT operator Fraport said it may apply for an annulment of a recent World Bank decision to dismiss its claim for more than $400 million in compensation over a Manila airport terminal project.

Fraport said on Friday only two out of three judges in the arbitration tribunal considered its involvement in the Manila project was not governed under a German-Philippine agreement and argued the court did not have jurisdiction for the case.

The World Bank announced its decision earlier this month.

"Fraport currently believes that material documents presented at the proceedings, as well as argumentation and other aspects advanced by Fraport, were not or not sufficiently taken into consideration by the court," the company said.

"Therefore, Fraport's executive board is reviewing all legal options, including applications for annulment," Fraport added in a statement.

A successful plea for annulment could lead to the arbitration procedure being reinstated, Fraport said, reopening the possibility of winning more compensation from the Philippine government.

Fraport headed a consortium that built and now wants to operate the new terminal, which was designed to handle 35 million passengers a year and was originally set to open in late 2002.

The Philippine government seized the terminal in December 2004 in a contract dispute, triggering Fraport's compensation claim for $425 million plus interest via the World Bank.

Fraport received an initial €20 million payment from the Philippine government in September. Fraport wrote down all its investment in the project in 2001 and 2002.

Reuters

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VOL. XXXV, NO. 200 INQUIRER

OPINION

China's caddy

EDITORIAL

BENIGNO ABALOS MADE HIS REPUTATION AS A man of such modest means he supported himself by working as a caddy at the Wack-Wack Golf Club. He studied the law, rose to become a judge, and then, a governor, establishing a political dynasty in the process. His appointment as chair of the Commission on Elections was supposed to be the crowning glory of his career. Instead, it has proven to be one of the greatest tragedies in our democratic history.

Under Abalos' watch, the Comelec has returned to the days of the Marcos era, when its chairman couldn't count, and when it served as an instrumentalized instrument for defrauding the people of their votes. And just like in the days of the dictatorship, the Comelec has thwarted and poisoned every institution with which it has come into contact.

Stubbornly refusing to bow to public pressure or damning legal findings, Abalos has left the Supreme Court (which said he should be charged and tried), in a humiliating position of being ignored by an Ombudsman eager to exonerate him. President Macapagal-Arroyo, who preaches electoral virtue while appointing to preside over electoral manipulation, speaks of the separation of powers that renders her powerless to do anything about him—even as partisans identified with the administration coalition seem said to be behind the electoral fraud in Mindanao—which Abalos has claimed was no fraud at all.

The sad and bitter truth is, Abalos matters more to the powers-that-be than public opinion does. He knows it, and his political posse knows it. That is why he could be assured he'd be safe as Comelec chair no long as elections (and a possible constitutional referendum) are on the horizon.

But now his time may, indeed, be up; his term expires next year, he won't matter in 2010, and so, even the opposition has been emboldened to go after his neck.

Abalos' critics have been pinned down on an issue whose his fellow countrymen can't help him, where the Comelec's rank-and-file can't save him, and where the evidence is so obvious, so glaring—and getting corroborated so continuously—as to leave very little room for giving him the benefit of the doubt. The ZTE deal, which we pointed out a few days ago, will be funded by a Chinese government loan to our government, is proving to be a behind-lease in the tradition of past crooked treaty deals.

And who enjoyed a privileged trade as a fixer for this deal? Who, Abalos himself, reports say. What was heaviest about to the media—influence peddling, packets, bribes and sweepstakes—became the subject of a privilege speech by opposition congressman Carlos Padilla. And from there, more revelations were made by an administration official, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

Teves confirmed that he was introduced to officials of the China-based ZTE Corp. during a meeting with Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza (the man who from the very start took credit for the deal) and Abalos. Teves has washed his hands of the matter—which leaves things even more firmly in the lap of Mendoza and Abalos who, it can now be basically said, served as the real fly for the Chinese trying to close the deal.

We wouldn't be surprised if, the flood gates having been breached, more officials will come forward to say Abalos did this and that to facilitate the deal. There is talk he even had a hand in expediting the granting of visas for his Chinese chums. In the end, whatever is said or revealed won't matter so long as Abalos maintains he's done nothing wrong—the "what are we in power for?" defense, which is no defense at all.

As Comelec chair, no reasonable justification can be found for his getting personal with administration officials; his sitting in—worse, acting as a fixer for—multi-million-dollar deals; and his accepting, along the way, junkets and—God knows—what else.

As it is, after studiously denying everything, Abalos has had to grudgingly admit to certain things, but only in dribbles. Each dribbled admission only raises more questions: how to explain, for example, the differences between his and Teves' recollection of the meeting with ZTE representatives?

Most of all, here is an official who should have been impeached and indicted long ago; but even as we once more endorse his impeachment, we need to ask: What happens to those in the long list of Abalos-enablers, from the Ombudsman on down? Our forecast is, no one in this government can risk Abalos facing the music, because once he's down, they're next.

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'The letter that killeth'

SEPARATE OPINION

Joaquin A. Cruz

IN 1921, CLARENCE DARROW, GORDON BRYTE in penal from a pool of yellow mind paper circular to the Supreme Court of the United States, complaining that he was in a Florida prison of every rising contempt of theft in a trial where he was denied the assistance of counsel in effect. The Court acted swiftly on his complaint and ordered a new trial where, with a lawyer representing him this time, he was acquitted.

The case of Gideon v. Wainwright (372 US 335) was followed by other cases upholding the constitutional right of suspected persons, among these Escobedo v. Illinois (378 US 478) and later the celebrated Miranda v. Arizona (384 US 436), written by Chief Justice Earl Warren, a justice who unexpectedly proved to be as conservative later. That case mandated specified and required full observance of the rights of a person under custodial investigation, now famously known and requested as the Miranda rights.

The rights were first applied by our municipal law Supreme Court in Morales v. Enrile (121 SCRA 538), and later in People v. Galit (135 SCRA 465), both written by Justice Hermogenes Concepcion Jr., the second with the approval of all the members at that except one Justice who did not take part. They are now embodied in Art. III, Sec. 12 of the present Constitution as guarantees of the Bill of Rights against forced extrajudicial confessions.

I mentioned the Gideon decision at the outset because it was an exceptional case that would not have happened in our country. The reason, as our Supreme Court would later put it, was that it was "insufficient to hire and maintain" and so deserved instant dismissal for disrupting the serious work of the high office.

Gideon had written his letter in pencil only (we were a typewriter) and on ruled yellow pad paper (but the legislation mandates with the peculiar) measurements). However it was processed in our institutional system's language and use, in the lawyer's share with us the constitutional right of suspected persons

The rings of a happy marriage

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

SERVED IN ELEGANCE BETWEEN CATHOLIC lineage (the wedding of Andrei Monserrat and Lisa Cariño at the Manila Cathedral last Aug. 18 was everything I thought but blessed in heaven. The principal sponsors, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Chancellor Cirilo Da. Eduardo R. Escobedo, Jr. Majesty Judith Jac. Justice Jose A.R. Melo, Mrs. Veronica D. Sison and Mr. Ramon Cuneta, Mrs. Pura C. Ilarde and Dr. Emeritus B. Roman and I stood in ergo attention as the couple said their "I do's" before Msgr. Nestor C. Carbonell D. Sto. M. Mendoza.

Wedding ring. When we left Inc., however, were a little disturbed by the ring exchange. Instead of the they exchanged wedding rings. The romantic version of an old song went forward in my mind — "A circle is a spiral, a wheel with no wheel, never ending ring of beginning, on on your spinning reel... The ring is a symbol of love, of a bond, which never ending and unending. It symbolizes not only an just "all-must-do-as-past." That is why there are timeless songs that monotrack lovers swear by, like "Eternally" and "Endless love."

Back on earth, however, I hope more and that there are really four things that couples exchange when they wed. These are the wedding ring, carving, standing and offering. Whenever lovers get married for advice, I use these four rings as the simple, yet profound, symbols of the "I do's" they utter.

Loving self in caring. By caring, I refer to a person's surrender of self to the other. After marriage, the "I" dies and the "we and us" are born, to live as long as the marriage lasts. So, every decision — which to watch, what appetizer to order, what movies to watch, which school the individual goes to and how weekends are to be spent — become some-times.

They are two ever-mixed spots. One spouse is supposed to know the other as well as a common-no one all matters can be reasonably expected. Romantic love begins with the honeymoon and can last a lifetime when each of the partners take seriously their reservations to love "in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer." That is possible when the happiness of a spouse no longer consists in self-satisfaction, but in caring, tending and nurturing the other. The self must die and give birth to the other.

Legal binding. By sharing, I no longer talk about emotional ties. Instead, I summarize to the future spouses what happens to their properties in the marriage. Will they be under absolute separation — unless they exercise a written prenuptial agreement — automatically enter the conjugal partnership of gains. How, each of the partners, treated ownership of their respective assets, but the fruits or earnings of their separate properties and their income from their work or occupation become jointly owned.

But the Family Code (which took effect on Aug. 3, 1988) increased the regime of absolute community of property. Under this regime, the fusion of property owned by each of the future spouses prior to the marriage, or acquired thereafter, become community owned. Unless — prior the wedding — the parties enter into a written "marriage settlements," the absolute community regime takes effect immediately, even if the titles to the assets are registered in the name of one spouse only. Accordingly, land, condominiums, cars, equipment and jewelry all each of the spouses had before the marriage automatically fuse into the community property. Excluded are property for the personal or exclusive use of either spouse, like clothing, shoes and cosmetics.

The administration and enjoyment of community property is shared by the spouses jointly. In case of disagreement, the husband's decision prevails, unless such is entitled to the equal use of the family car or TV set. Neither spouse may sell, mortgage or give away any communal asset without the consent of the other.

Together, the couple shall fix the family home; manage the household and exercise parental authority over their minor children. However, either spouse may exercise any legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity without the consent of the other. The latter may object only on "valid, serious and moral grounds."

Offering to God. The respected Bishop Father J. Bernal stated that in other times we got married the traditional, the safe way. Parents arranged the marriages, the inner movements to govern their personal and property relationship, but God blesses the union to make it last through the years. Even if the husband and the wife care for each other dearly and share with each other all their worldly goods, there will always be problems and tensions.

But as another song goes, "there is no problem in big God cannot solve it, there is no mountain so high God cannot move it." True, there are parents, spouses, relatives, friends, and even the courts or various others seemingly insurmountable problems arise, but when all else fail, there is the final solution... the almighty loving and merciful God.

In fact, I advise my students not to wait for a crisis, but to offer to God their daily ups and downs, hopes and frustrations to the Lord. Without fail, pain together spent dining in the morning and before sleeping at night. The evening worship is even more sacred. Couples should hold hands every night and offer to the Lord... as their marriage, all the concerns, problems and quarrels of the day. If couples do this habitually, they will never fail and God is joyful.

To sum up, imagine last four rings, the wedding ring, the commercial ring, the legal binding and the spiritual offering. All of them are essential to a happy and crowned marriage.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chrjbar@pacific-bar@hotmail.com.

'Suroy suroy' through Cebu

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SNAPSHOTS IN A ROAD TRIP THROUGH THE southern coastal of Cebu.

Born of schools children line the highway when ever the "Suroy Suroy Sugbo" (Wandering through Cebu) 2000" caravan passes through. At the head of the convoy is an SUV carrying Sen. Serge Osmeña, who turns out the first passengers van, half the body precariously balanced, in the streets and were clusters hands with her going and coming. Behind her is a van with a sound system shouting "Gwapa Gwapa" in the multi-purpose hall in Compostela, the crowd erupts and cheers when she enters, and the air sounds like the motion usually reserved for show biz denizens.

In Danao City, the welcome is more to "Suroy suroy" just a few minutes from Mandaue, the caravan of tour buses, coasters, vans and SUVs stops for breakfast, which incredibly includes country and lechon cheese with the cookies in every stop. The team likes the lechon cheese, but the media and other officials offshore in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new town hall. In Compostela, there is a mini-carnival of the town's multi-purpose hall, complete with games booths and the ever-present cheese. But the high point of this stop is when the mayor calls on Major Bimbo Magpale to render a song, and there is joined by the governor for a duet of the Cebuano "sentimental anthem," the song "Bahay Kubo."

Later, the governor tells us that "Manod Nila," a sad love song of a love betrayed, was her "theme song" in her first run for governor. She was a decided underdog then and barely squeezed out a victory over her rival. Now, as the "Suroy Suroy" caravan rolls on, she says, she is very much at ease with her feelings, as well as reaching out to rival camps.

On the day, crowds sing "Manod Nila" on a 40 hours note. Having garnered the biggest margin of votes among all the provincial board members, her favorite through the northern towns looks more like a victory parade. But she warns up the crowds like a campaigner, and the "suroy suroy" gives an indication of how hectic and at times grueling a campaign can be.

When our van driver temporarily loses his way, he encounters a farmer walking down a lonely road, and asks if a convoy had just passed by. Yes, many were the responses, but the farmer was not sure. When pushed to the limit, he said, "Kung ako ang inyong hinahanap (If I were the one you're looking for), I would be in my farm now."

Many of the caravaners had exchanged wedding rings. The romantic version of an old song went forward in my mind — "A circle is a spiral, a wheel with no wheel, never ending ring of beginning, on on your spinning reel... The ring is a symbol of love, of a bond, which never ending and unending. It symbolizes not only an just "all-must-do-as-past." That is why there are timeless songs that monotrack lovers swear by, like "Eternally" and "Endless love."

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Russia's future and the West

WORLD VIEW

Jacobo Fischer

RUSSIA IS AGAIN SEEKING A ROLE AS A GLOBAL power and is therefore finding its markets. Typical example is Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov lamenting ever since President Vladimir Putin declared a confrontational speech in Munich last February.

Ivanov chose Russia played its flag on the ramblers before the North Pole to demonstrate its claims to the Arctic and its natural resources, stimulated its economy to build its own missile defense system, and reinforced its military capabilities. Ivanov became of the planned deployment of a small American defense system, exploited a "new" missile test bomb to Georgia as a warning signal to the government in Tbilisi and its "threats" to break Russian influence in the Caucasus, and made a land of Russia with surveillance aircraft. Shocked a decision on the final status of Kosovo in the UN Security Council, and launched a tender assault on the Russian position in the Balkans. In addition, such visions, there is a repeated theme of "pull-limit" with oil and gas deliveries to Europe.

Both oil and gas prices, American and millions of dollars are flowing to Russia's treasury once more, and the rise of China and India obviously have produced. Moreover on change its foreign policy. Its basic of this attention to a fundamental change in Russia's role in world politics. Ivanov chose to adhere to its fundamental decisions, made in the early 1990s, to open itself to the West. Still, the style of Russian politics has changed. Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, and, as history has shown, a change of style in foreign policy may quickly lead to a change in strategy.

Currently, Russia is undergoing a transition. Fundamentals always produce revolutions and times of far-reaching change. The power vacuum is being removed, following its partial disintegration after the end of the Soviet Union. But, ever since the 18th century, the center has played the crucial role in the Russian history, and now looks to be no different.

The reconstruction of central authority has been going on for some time. Indeed, ending the course almost completely divorce Russian internal politics and economic, though both are closely interrelated. Framework, one is a democratic and market-based fashion.

Democracy has, of course, degenerated into what is known as "managed democracy" under Putin. Theoretically there remain different parties, elections, a pluralistic society, an independent judiciary and a market economy. But in practice, the media system is subject to control by the president. The people will still be allowed to vote for the president, but the real decisions about who he will be will have been made beforehand.

Even if it remains far approximate than of Italy, Russia will it a global power and not important to define, or even forget about. It retains enormous strategic weight. Russia's future will be determined by whether it is successful in using its relatively rich resources to strengthen its economy, which is still underdeveloped oil, gas and other natural resources.

If Russia remains dependent on a natural resource economy it will again become a colonial power. With 147 of the 200 largest firms in the world are the old Soviet Union. Only if Russia succeeds in productively reinventing the gains from its post-economy will it achieve substantive transformation.

But this does will require successful political modernization, which means nothing less than overcoming the power of the center. The four important aspects of this will be to restore civil and independent society, to create legal system as an area of checks and balances compatible with its enforceable and uniform, because this, together with the rule of law, is an indispensable precondition of a functioning democracy. Finally, Russia will need to build a functioning party system, as parties of opposition play a decisive role in containing the country's vast size, a two-party system seems to be the most appropriate.

All these considerations will take time, and they will not come consequently or be free of conflict. So, for the foreseeable future, the West will have to deal with a Russia that wishes for its lost imperial power and shapes its foreign policy to this end.

Its most important task will be to prevent any of its neighbors or other side's weaknesses. The weakness of the United States and Europe today is an open invitation for Russia to retreat to its old imperial politics. This development is anything but in the interest of the West.

Europe thus has a strategic interest in Russia's successful modernization and in good bilateral relations. Above all, the European Union and its member states must continue to offer Russia a partnership in order to integrate it into the European sphere of influence without ostracizing or even dumping its own essential interests. It is for this reason that ensuring the independence of Ukraine is so important, as it is assisting Turkey's European orientation.

So, while Russia's modernization and democratization are in Europe's interest, we must keep in mind that Russia will be a difficult partner. Its foreign policy will be marked by nationalism at home is not. Most Russians feel wronged, to the core five years, Russia still offers Europe a great opportunity for closer cooperation, but it will also present a risk of increased tension in European affairs.

The right response to these opportunities and risks requires a united, strong Europe. Indeed, a strong and united Europe will also make an important contribution to Russia's sustainable and evolution. It would also do like Europe will assist Russia to pursue integration paths like the future. Project Syndicate/Institute for Human Sciences

Jacobo Fischer, a leader in the Green Party for nearly 20 years, was Germany's foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005.

Blood brothers

ANDREW ANDANAR MENDOZA

His name was Cris Anthony Mendoza. His friends from the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) nicknamed him Cris, and his pictures show a boy who made faces at the camera while surrounded by friends. This year was his turn in the university of the Philippines Initiative, the year he was to be awarded a medal. He was the eldest of his family, and his mother in Taung, Quezon believed he would pull them out of poverty. He was 20 years old.

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

Cris was tall, and thin, and kind, and talked he was killed by soldiers on January 30, 1987. He was 20 years old.

I write this in detail, a single sentence because he was classified as the Manila's Municipal Medical Center, battered and bruised people. The doctors say Cris was dead on arrival. According to the statement of security guard Arandun Gadoso, it was Lt. Gregorio Cruz, a PMMC physician, who brought Cris in from a white Toyota Tamaraw. And after leaving information, Cruz and his companions sped away. Reports say Dr. Cruz has gone on compulsory leave.

According to eyewitnesses in EP Law, he was killed in a meeting of Sigma Rho, a EP Gilbert-law-based Fraternity. Chief Insp. Elmo Bernard of the QCPD-CIDU told this paper that the shooting has gone into hiding.

Cris Mendoza left behind many with his friends close he was joining Sigma Rho, and that Ariel Pacho Jones, chair of the NCPAG student council, was his mentor and dominant master. Ariel has disappeared. In a report from this paper, their sister Cris's friends or what him gone back "for the initiation" which was to take place over the weekend.

Right now the three who watched Cris die on that night in their beds at night. They remember how his eyes looked when he was his mentors. They know if he tried, if he begged, if he said please, stop. They held his broken body on the way to the hospital. They have left and returned to and found their sorrows, and today some of them still go to class and study human rights law.

There are many things I do not understand. I understand that these fraternity men are scholars. Are students, people educated by the state in the hope that someday they will give back to the country. But I do not understand what their twisted logic can make intelligent men believe that friendship and loyalty need to be proven through a brand initiation.

"Such distorted values," as EP Chairman Chancellor Serge Osmeña III called it, have no place in any of higher learning, the EP teaching is illegal, and has been for more than a decade. The administration is currently building its case against Sigma Rho, and his officers have been suspended.

Last Friday Cris' friends from NCPAG lit candles and gathered on the steps of the Palma Hall building. There were around 200 of them, and the majority of those who protested stories the tarmacs, thousands less than those who turned up for last Chairman' lantern parade. The Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs has received shocked calls over the wrecking of two women during the Dharma Rain that he was organizing. Cris' death is the first. Many are mixed for the people. We condemn the violence of the war against crime. We rage against those who mangle the Constitution. We fill the streets with our numbers for the disappeared and the dismissed. We write columns of work and study hours. Unfortunately for those who succeeding from this collision. Today we say it again. Many others have been lost before, but none happened. Why are we alone now?

I have been told that the name Virginia Rho are more of characters whether they tell themselves it was an accident, that they did not intend to kill Cris. Whether they were drunk or not. Whether they can continue themselves that they are good people. Lawmakers may hold hearers for charges played with children, censured for the loss for many under the law of an alternate rule. Maybe they have girlfriends who sigh over binocular's presence, and mothers who hug them in the morning. And maybe, after all, they are human beings. Unfortunately, they will be extra-ordinary and opinion makers and judges of men.

Sigma Rho has denied media. There is a conspiracy of silence, even among the alumni. In spite of evidence hiding members to Cris and his death, members deny they knew him, and that they were not there when he died.

Character is not the ability to drain a paddle on bare legs, or the strength to endure it. Character is not "standing by a Sigma Rhoer, right or wrong," or they claimed they do in their freshmen admission in EP Law. Character is the willingness to stand by what is right, even if right is not popular. Only who once laughed with his friends, for the truth that may the real boy from being beaten to death at the hands of such gentlemen of character. Every man who bears the name of civic fraternity, or one who believes in a manner similar to this, is come with blood on his hands.

The Cris Mendoza case is not the first. But what they have achieved, or how great they become. They will be judged by this moment, when they have chosen to say, to hide, or to stand silent.

To Taung, Quezon, Cris' mother sits beside his coffin. She has quiet, and her eyes are flat and blank. Days after the death, her head, violently, and means, and her soul cuts through the dark air of the quiet funeral parlor. There is single tears, and a moment sort of disbelief. Why, she asks, why her son, her Cris who was such a good boy? Why did they have to kill him, they didn't have to, and when they had beaten him up, she would have taken him home, she would have tamed him, she would have gotten a doctor even if she was poor. And while she screams, she tells his killers that someday they will have children too.

Then one more, she gratefully counts their puddles behind empty and silent. Be called brothers by their victims? Even they know her brothers died the way Cris died, none of their loyal bonds may bonds would call brotherhood?

* * *

For comments, just text: PH 0918 9 some age, location, message then send to 2896 for Globe/Sun and 2840 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

THEY SAID

'Crisis ordinaire'

"This administration has faced all sorts of crisis and we have prevailed. Any other new crisis is just like another day in the office."

—President Benigno Aquino Jr. (Fred Lego Encinas)

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to [illegible]

Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Strengthening the Asian voice

ASIA ACCOUNTS FOR 60 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, BUT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS of the global information flow comes from the developed countries. The imbalance has reduced the Asian voice to other members of Asian Daily calls "barely a whisper."

The problem has become the engine for global economic development, its media continue to be overshadowed by Western media.

By their sheer size, American media companies dominate the global news and information industry allowing them to frame many issues from their perspective.

To help address the imbalance, People's Daily, China's leading newspaper, hosted the First Asian plus 3 (10 + 3) Media Cooperation Forum on Aug. 23. Editors from the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), and from China, Japan and South Korea attended the forum in Tianjin, a city two hours' drive from Beijing.

The forum focused on the role of media from East Asian countries in promoting 10 + 3 cooperation, strengthening Asian voice in the international arena, and building a win-win information platform for China and foreign media for the Beijing Olympics.

It was Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao who proposed the holding of the forum at the 10th 10 + 3 Summit in Cebu in January.

To promote cooperation, editors suggested, among others, that exchanges and a network for information sharing be set up.

'Develop our own forms of journalism'

By Qu Yingpu

I ONCE HEARD A STORY I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE: In the town of Bhimnagar in the Nepali terai—where the north Indian plains meet the foothills of the Himalayas—students were debating the impact of satellite TV on their lives.

One boy said: "I don't like Star movies and Channel V. The lifestyles on these channels is far removed from the reality of our own country. Because of them, diamonds, Nepali girls have started wearing shoe shirts."

"I think films are much more dangerous to society," replied a girl. "Nepali boys are very quick at imitating. That's why we see boys wearing earrings, bandanas on their heads and tearing jacks."

It may not be a pleasant story, but it probably is a fair reflection of the current state of Asian media.

Asia is the fastest growing economic region in the world with a large population and abundant natural resources.

In 2005, the economies in this region continued to grow at a steady pace of 8.3 percent and continued at about the same rate in the first half of 2006, according to statistics from the World Bank. Since the early 1990s, Asia's vitality has been boosted by regional cooperation, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

However, the development of Asian media does not reflect its economic dynamism. Asian countries' economies account for 60 percent of the world's population, but almost two-thirds of the information flow comes from the developed world, reducing the Asian voice to barely a whisper.

Developments in the media industry have been led largely by Western countries, whose international presence has overshadowed much of the Asia-Pacific media.

Asia, as the fastest-growing economy in the world and the engine for global economic development, deserves better media coverage by news organizations in the region and around the globe.

What implications will the global media integration have on Asia media?

Global media integration means the concentration of the means in fewer and fewer corporate hands and to a few countries. New communication technologies have made it possible for media giants to extend the lucrative Asian market to maximize economies of distribution and production worldwide.

It will have serious and profound Asian implications. Asian countries will be increasingly dependent on foreign media for information and entertainment. Asian media will be more and more subject to foreign influences, which can lead to the media outlet being influenced by various corporate interests. At the same time, ownership in reverse may affect what is and is not covered. Readers can only be being blamed or enticed so as not to offend advertisers or owners. When global media companies enter Asian countries, the attempt of building a new image of their own in the eyes of Western media powerhouses. The voice of weak countries will never be heard.

It is about time for the Asian media to act together to prevent that from happening. Do the Japanese media regulations that disallow a single foreign entity from holding more than 20 per cent of a Japanese media company. Otherwise, Asian media will be gobbled up like a Mc Donald's Big Breakfast by Western interests.

How can we make the Asian media's voice louder?

Asia is a politically and culturally diverse continent. Before we can find reforming and developing communist countries more door to some of the most successful capitalist countries in the world. And we can as ears to figure out a model for distribution and production worldwide.

It is hard to assume Asian media's success by imitating their Western counterparts. I propose four measures, which may lead Asian media to become a potent force in expressing the voice of the Asian people in the global exchange of views.

1. Don't always blame Asia's media climate

I always hear complaints about Chinese media environment. Because of the political climate from expressing what they truly believe, the government heads it over the industry with policy directives and draconian regulations, and the dissemination of foreign information on the Chinese mainland is severely constrained.

Citing these facts, however, may obscure the more important story about changes in China's media environment. The growth of continuation of government initiative and unintended consequences of economic reform, the Chinese media environment is being transformed into one in which state-employed media managers have increasingly to making decisions, the images and ideas to which Chinese are exposed are increasing and a greater role for private capital is being carved out.

The new media environment is one of lively media talk shows, less inhibited press coverage, live television broadcasts, grassroots impacts of foreign media products and the growth of online media.

Like in China, the improvement of Asian media climate is not likely to happen overnight. Yet, the movement has been toward greater openness, and that movement likely to continue. A reflection in government officials to make-owned media enterprises and the close pulse of a commercial mindset among media managers are undermining government control and contributing to the development of a quasi-independent media.

As data goes ahead with its economic reforms and become further integrated into the international market economy, and as new technologies, such as mobile phones and the Internet are used more widely, media environment changes will continue.

2. Develop Asia's own forms of journalism

A study examined the claim that Asian journalism is essentially different from Western journalism through a comparative analysis of Channel News Asia (CNA), an international news channel operated by a Singaporean company, and CNN. It analyzed the news bulletins aired by the two stations in their special news programs on Asia during four weeks over a six-month period in 2006.

The results show that despite its objective of presenting an Asian perspective in its news-cast, CNA is not significantly different from CNN. Both networks tended to focus on crises and conflicts in their news coverage of Asia. The findings indicate that being Asian does not automatically confer Asian-centredness and media to present news about Asia in a way significantly different from their Western counterparts.

Western media powerhouses have advanced technology and experience, which have long been accepted as the ideal with hardly any doubt throughout Asia. Developing Asia's own form of journalism is the way out of the dilemma of being beaten by Western media.

There are three steps we could follow:

- First, by accepting that there are truths beyond those put out by AP or Reuters.
- Second, by fine-tuning skills to communicate these truths effectively.
- Third, by identifying and exploiting areas of interest for its members.

1. Utilize digital media

Asian media have undergone dramatic development and change in the past decade. The growth of the Internet and other digital media has opened up existing opportunities for Asian mainstream media. The Internet will give Asian media the leverage over Western interests. It will enable Asian media to expand their coverage beyond Asia. For example: The China Daily website was China's first news website on the time of its launch in December 1995 and it remains one of the country's top news portals today.

By providing easy access in a wide range of news, business information, photos and cyberculture communities, chinadaily.com.cn has become into an influential source of information for people at home and abroad.

Published in English and Chinese and attracting six million page views a day, chinadaily.com.cn serves as an online bridge between China and the rest of the world. The Internet is like the line art of judo. You may be weaker than your opponent, but by developing and adopting the right skills at the right time, you can overthrow a colossus.

4. Form alliances

This global trend would also encourage media in Asia to forge alliances with other media outlets, like with the Asia News Network (ANN). Eight years ago, the birth of ANN marked the validity and strength of Asian media acting together. The Asia News Network is a network of national daily newspapers published in Asian cities, organized to provide avenues for cooperation and to optimize coverage of major news events in the region.

Eight years have passed, the network's membership has grown from 7 to 16 newspapers, representing 12 nations that cover about half of the world's population.

The best way for Asian media to improve upon the unbalancing of global media integration is for it to integrate, and to report Asia, if not always objectively, then with a subjectivity quite different from that of the media's media.

This ambitious will continue to happen, and will help strengthen Asian media presence in the global market.

Qu Yingpu is the deputy editor in chief of China Daily, the only national English language newspaper in China. He graduated from Shanghai International Studies University in 1987 with two degrees—in English language and literature, and international relations. He obtained his MPA from the Harvard School of Government, (Harvard University in 2005.)

West has dominated world culture for centuries

By Li Changchun

FOR OVER 500 YEARS, world culture has been dominated by the West. Now, we have a very good momentum in Asean + 3 media cooperation. This will help us change that and develop ourselves. Many say the 21st century is Asia's century. In any time many eras Asian countries went to dominate the world.

But what we want is to develop a harmonious world. And we hope that all kinds of civilizations can develop based on hand-with-mutual benefit. Twenty-first century Asia will play a greater role and it is necessary for Asia to have a louder voice in the international arena.

China needs a peaceful environment to develop to trade with the region.

China will continue to pursue neighborliness and the road to development. That is why it has taken an active role in promoting cooperation among 10 + 3 countries.

This year, Asean celebrated its 40th year. It has promoted economic growth and integration process. We commend this development because it contributes to peace in the region.

The Chinese government sees ties with Asean as very important.

Ten years ago, we started cooperation among 10 + 3 states. Over the past 10 years, we witnessed a very good momentum, and we are sustained growth in the future. The group has become a main channel for cooperation in Asia and enhanced mutual understanding among states.

It plays an important role in economic growth and social development. It has contributed to regional peace and economic development, and boosted the standing of the region and influence in the international arena.

As 10 + 3 cooperation grows, it will expand to cultural, social and people-to-people ties. Media play an important role in culture—in helping people understand each other and in promoting friendship.

So our highly appreciate 10 + 3 media cooperation and offer our support. Such cooperation should continue to develop. Twenty-first century Asia will play a greater role and it is necessary for Asia to have a louder voice in the international arena.

We will continue to support cooperation between People's Daily and all of you. So I suggest that to build on the success of the forum, People's Daily should continue to cooperate with you and discuss ways to move forward. We would like to provide the services to be a venue.

If you think People's Daily is qualified to be a venues, it will continue its role in promoting cooperation. I said this Liu Yandong will back it.

Under the framework of 10 + 3 cooperation, media cooperation will take off soon. Come up with suggestions to facilitate cooperation in other areas.

Li Changchun is a member of the standing committee of the Political Bureau of China's ruling party. The article is based on the basic talks by Asst U Secretaries & of the English translation of Li's talk with editors from 10 + 3 countries and officials of People's Daily at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Aug. 23.)

Asians know more about their issues

By Ngaan Sovath

THE GLOBAL DOMINATION BY the US media has an effect on the coverage of Asia. Shelter Asian magazine reports that by the end of 2006, there were eight giant media companies in the United States, most of which are also the globe's other media firms from which most of us get news and information. Those companies are:

- Disney (market value: $72.8 billion)
- AOL-Time Warner ($99.7 billion)
- Viacom ($53.9 billion)
- Bertelsmann (German owner of NBC, $39.6 billion)
- News Corp. ($46.7 billion)
- Microsoft ($306.8 billion)
- Google ($134.8 billion)
- General Electric (owner of NBC, $359.6 billion)

Indeed ($46.1 billion)

Of these companies, only one, Indeed, is not based in the United States. Of the eight, only Google and Microsoft are not involved in the media business.

Given the dominance of the US media in the media world, we rarely get information on Asia reported by the Asian media. The Asian voices—the voice for peace, the voice for development, the voice for cooperation, the voice for mutual respect, and the voice for equal rights in the international arena, can not be heard.

This is due to the less active performance of the Asian media. As a result, the media can not fully serve the interest of Asian people and a true Asia is not reflected in the media.

Only Asian people know clearly about Asian issues, identity and culture. By getting information from foreign media, we are sometimes misinformed about events in Asia or we do not have information on other Asian countries. On this point, I decide if we, the media practitioners, have played our role to serving the interest of the public.

Considering the importance of this meeting, we should set up a network of 10 + 3 media network, which can serve as a bridge for cooperation among Asian journalists.

We will not be able to play our role as the catalyst for boosting cooperation if we, the media practitioners, are not well-informed.

Through this cooperation, we can understand the media situation, including working conditions and press freedom in various countries. The network shall also bring together all the Asian media to promote unity in Asia.

A member can use the information of the network free of charge. Therefore, this network will serve as a tool for sharing information among the Asian media outlets.

This mission is not easy and it requires our joint effort to make this dream become a reality. When we have easy access to Asian information sponsored by Asian media, I do hope that there will be a change for the better.

(Ngaan Sovath is the political editor of Rasmei Kampuchea news paper. This article is part of the paper he delivered at the First 10 + 3 Media Cooperation Forum.)

Princess Di: 'Simply, best mother in the world'

Viewpoint A1

look in a far braver key than the emotional tribal waves that swept over Britain following her death 10 years ago.

In his eulogy, Harry said it was important "that we remember our mother as she would wish us to be remembered, as the wise, fun-loving, generous, down to earth and entirely genuine."

The prince also had high praise for Diana's son. Prince Harry as it reflected on his maturity. They lauded the young army officer's touching speech about her, a decade on from losing the heartbroken 12-year-old boy he comforted behind the sad task of walking behind his mother's coffin as the world watched on.

Let it end here

"Let it end here," said the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, in a plea for the extravaganza over her tragic death in a Paris car crash at the age of 36 to finally come to a halt.

"Let this service mark the point at which we let her rest in peace and dwell on her memory with thanksgiving and compassion," Chartres said in Friday's service in words that seemed to echo a chord.

The service at noon for the 10th anniversary of the death of the Princess of Wales was simple and poignant, a dignified celebration of a life rather than a somber recollection of a death.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown was among the nearly 500 invited guests, as were his two predecessors, John Major and Tony Blair. Elton John, Richard Attenborough and Richard Branson came. So did a dozen of the princess' godchildren; flower girls and pageboys from her wedding. In 1981, to Prince Charles, representatives of various charities she supported, and more than 30 members of the royal family.

Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, Charles' second wife, was glaringly absent. Reportedly afraid of being heckled—she was, after all, the woman to whom Diana referred when she declared there were "three of us in this marriage"—Camilla decided to stay away, saying she did not want to distract from the proper purpose of the occasion and leaving Charles to lead the way alongside his sons, Prince Harry and Prince William.

Queen Elizabeth II followed, with her husband, Prince Philip.

Dodi Fayed's father

Also conspicuous by his absence was Mohamed Al Fayed, father of the prince's boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, who also died in the crash. He was reportedly not invited.

The Egyptian tycoon hosted a two-minute silence at his supermarket Harrods department store Harrods, attended by about 100 people.

Late yesterday, a report from Lord John Stevens, former head of London's Metropolitan Police, ruled out any conspiracy and said that the crash, which also killed the car's driver Henri Paul, was a "tragic accident."

The crowds that gathered between Buckingham Palace and the Guards' Chapel, where the service took place, were warm, encouraging and royalist. Their support of the queen—they applauded her as she went into the chapel, and again when the queue out—was a far cry from the restive, anti-monarchist mood of a decade ago, when she was criticized for not being cruel and cold enough.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the chapel to listen to the service through loudspeakers. Harry's address caused applause and reduced many of them to tears.

"A SHOWER OF TEARS AND FLOWERS." It isn't quite that now like it was in 1997. Still, 10 years later, the world has not quite forgotten. The bouquets, poems and portraits are still there in memoriam at the gates of Kensington Palace, where she Princess of Wales once lived. —AP

William read a Bible passage, while Diana's sister Lady Sarah McCorquodale quoted from a poem, Rudyard Kipling's "If—," by Diana's favorite author, before giver made a rousing, combative speech at her funeral, was silent this time around.

London did not come to a standstill, as it did on that cold, fevered time after Diana's death on Aug. 31, 1997. In a cut-and-paste world, the city and across Britain, people paused once more to remember the princess.

Media sentiments

Newspapers generally agreed with the bishop's sentiments, an attempt to draw a line under the episode in 1997 which sent a thunderbolt through British society, not to mention the royal family.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that the service ... will have healed decades-old wounds," said the Daily Telegraph in its editorial.

The Daily Mail said, "It is time to let go," while The Sun said "a loud Amen!" to Chartres' plea.

The Times, which examined the influence of Diana's death on the ownership unit: "With hindsight, it does now seem extraordinary how the royal family retreated the mood."

However, it added: "But what went also be recognized is the monarchy's resilience and determination to make the changes, albeit slowly and thoughtfully, needed to redefine its role and its relationship with the nation."

Columnist Polly Toynbee said on The Guardian's front page of the queen, her husband Prince Philip and Charles: "Now they must hope the ghost of Diana and her cult is at last at rest."

The newspaper's editorial said Diana's demise was "a death that changed Brits."

It said any hope that the press had changed its ways were extinguished by the paparazzi' treatment of William's on-off girlfriend Kate Middleton: she notices she seemed like becoming the next princess of Wales.

'Collective guilt'

And 1997's "shower of tears and flowers" from people who had never met Diana now seemed all the harder to explain.

"Collective guilt is the part that a collective obsession had played in her life and death may be as good an explanation as any.

"Maybe the country was acknowledging that its curiosity needed to change. It may be another thing in retrospect that this was not to happen, although it is disappointing nonetheless," it said.

Public grief

It was another attempt to put a stop to the swirl of conspiracy theories, focus on her death and untangling now her legacy.

Diana's death generated an unprecedented outpouring of public grief in Britain.

One million people took to the streets of London for the funeral and some say the episode changed the country. The tragedy also forced the royal family to present itself as a more open and inclusive institution.

Even in death, Diana has proved a highly divisive figure in Britain, with fans praising her compassion and glamour and detractors criticizing the often sentimental exterior to her death.

Diana still sells

Diana's fans will sell's magazines and newspapers, and her story inspires an unending stream of books.

A brutal inquest into her death opens later this year. Fayed has hired a high-paid legal team to argue that Diana and his son were the victims of an Establishment conspiracy led by the queen's husband, Prince Philip.

A poll commissioned by Channel 4 television suggested that one in four Britons believe Diana was murdered. The telephone survey of 1,016 adults conducted this week had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Diana's admirers, many of them suspicious of the cause of her death and resentful of Charles, tied bouquets, poems and portraits to the gates of Kensington Palace, her former home.

The Rev. Frank Gill, who has led an informal service outside Kensington Palace every year, said Friday's probably would be the last.

"It would be good if the princess was allowed to rest," he said. AP, WFT and AFP

ZTE's response to BONDOC's article in Philippine Star on August 27, 2007

ZTE casts serious doubt on earlier Star column

Director of Sales Management of ZTE Corporation ("ZTE"), Mr. Zhang Shumin, today responds to an article dated August 27, 2007 in *The Philippine Star*, saying that ZTE Corporation hereby states that the story narrated was completely untrue. The contents covered in the story initiated rumors which has overly affected ZTE's reputation. The company casts serious doubt on writer's ultimate "agenda".

On August 27, *The Philippine Star* published an opinion article by columnist Jarius Bondoc titled, "ZTE deal conceived in hotel escapades". In this article, the writer used his extraordinary imagination and courage to come up with a story on the National Broadband Network (NBN) project bid in the country.

Mr. Zhang Shumin corrects an obvious error in the column that ZTE is not China's third largest telecoms maker. As a leading global provider of telecommunications equipment and network solutions, ZTE is China's largest listed telecom manufacturer both in Hong Kong and Shen Zhen Stock Exchange Markets. ZTE is a prestigious company well established in the international telecommunications industry.

He also emphasizes that regardless of the country where ZTE operates – China, Philippines, or other parts of the world, ZTE always insists on the legality of running the business and is dedicated to the social development of local markets by providing quality telecommunication services.

ZTE's contribution has won worldwide recognition from local communities, as well as customers. The company has established long-term cooperative relationships with more than 500 operators in over 120 countries, including the US, France, UK, Singapore, etc.

In 2006, *BusinessWeek* selected ZTE as one of the "Top 10 important overseas listed company" and "Top 20 Brands 2006 of China" becoming the only Chinese telecommunication equipment manufacturer awarded in the lists.

In 2007, ZTE was chosen among the Top 20 "Most Globally Competitive Chinese Company" in a business contest jointly organized by Roland Berger Strategy Consultants and Global Entrepreneurs Journal in China.

Over the course of the NBN project deal discussions, ZTE has published several statements to provide factual information of the deal. Unfortunately, the columnist, for some unspeakable reasons, continued to write dozens of articles to challenge ZTE's well-established reputation. The story published on August 27 was merely one of his piece of work in a series of falsifying articles.

As a matter of fact, ZTE has maintained very close relationship with Philippines' business and trade communities in the past few years. And as part of the effort around the globe, ZTE has been fully committed to Philippine market's social and economic developments by working closely with all walks of life, while achieving business profits as an enterprise. We would like to take advantage of this opportunity to make an appeal to everyone with conscience and sensible judgment to censure the irresponsible and unethical act.

ZTE CORPORATION

YOU are the reason why ABS-CBN remains the NATIONWIDE LEADER

We are inspired by the warm welcome you give us in your home.

May we always be one in our joys and pains, hopes and dreams.

Maraming salamat sa inyong tiwala at suporta, Kapamilya.

NATIONWIDE AUDIENCE SHARE*

July 29-Aug 25, 2007, 6AM-12MN

ABS-CBN	49%
Nearest Competitor	36%

TOP WEEKDAY EVENING PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE* (Ratings)

July 29-Aug 25, 2007

Primetime

KOKEY	39.7%
YSABELLA	37.4%
KAPAMILYA DEAL OR NO DEAL	35.0%
WALANG KAPALIT	30.0%
Marimar	28.8%

TOP EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST NATIONWIDE (Ratings)

July 29-Aug 25, 2007

TV PATROL WORLD	34.1%
24 Oras	24.6%

TOP LATE NIGHT NEWSCAST NATIONWIDE (Ratings)

July 29-Aug 25, 2007

BANDILA	10.8%
Saksi	7.2%

TOP WEEKDAY DAYTIME PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE (Ratings)

July 29-Aug 25, 2007

Variety

WOWOWEE	27.3%
PILIPINAS GAME KNB?	25.4%
Eat Bulaga	16.9%

Talk

BOY & KRIS	15.5%
Sis	10.5%

TOP WEEKEND DAYTIME PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE (Ratings)

July 29-Aug 25, 2007

Musical Variety

ASAP 07	21.9%
SOP	12.8%

Showbiz Talkshow

THE BUZZ	19.5%
ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!	18.1%
Startalk	13.7%
Showbiz Central	12.4%

TOP WEEKEND CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE (Ratings)

July 29-Aug 25, 2007

RATED K	29.0%
Kapuso Mo Jessica Soho	25.2%
XXX	20.8%
Imbestigador	18.1%

TOP TRUE STORY ANTHOLOGY NATIONWIDE (Ratings)

July 29-Aug 25, 2007

MAALAALA MO KAYA	24.5%
Magpakailanman	14.1%

TOP WEEKEND EVENING PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE (Ratings)

July 29-Aug 25, 2007

Fantasy

KOMIKS	30.3%
Fantastic Man	16.0%

Sitcom

SHARON	22.1%
Mel & Joey	20.7%

TOP 10 PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE* (Ratings)

July 29-Aug 25, 2007

KOKEY	39.7%
YSABELLA	37.4%
1 VS 100	35.9%
KAPAMILYA DEAL OR NO DEAL	35.0%
TV PATROL WORLD	34.1%
KOMIKS	30.3%
WALANG KAPALIT	30.0%
RATED K	29.0%
Marimar	28.8%
SATURDAY AFTERNOON BLOCKBUSTER	28.6%

ONE COUNTRY ONE STATION ONE FAMILY

ABS-CBN

Across the NATION

No budget request for village polls

BAGUIO CITY—THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS has not asked the House of Representatives to replenish its budget for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in October, indicating that the elections may again be reset, Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan said on Saturday.

Domogan, chair of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET), said many of the ballot boxes used for the May 14 elections this year are still under their custody because of 55 electoral protests that remain unresolved.

He said many other reasons, bearing similar election cases have custody of other ballot boxes, "so there should have at least to buy ballot boxes for the October elections, Domogan said.

Comelec Commissioner Romeo Brawner had not issued any statement regarding the October elections.

Baguio guest

He arrived here to witness his wife, retired University of the Philippines professor Leonora de Guzmann, receive the chairs day award in an outstanding citizens for her contribution to Baguio education.

But Domogan said Comelec's silence could also mean it wants agreed to save up from its expenses from the May 14 elections to buy new ballot boxes, but poll officials have not informed legislators about this, he said.

"If there are still debate [more, more seeking to suspend the barangay and SK elections], Atty. Jubilee ng Comelec na ready sila (if the Comelec says its ready), I am sure rules ang adequate [the elections will proceed]," he said.

Reschedule

Domogan said he is not undersaying the resupplying of the barangay and SK elections, saying it may simply be rescheduled to April 2008 to give Comelec time to produce and prepare election materials.

"We have most barangay elections many times. Overstaying na ang mga barangay officials (The officials are already overstaying). They should receive fresh mandate from their constituents," he said.

"The SK [officials] are no longer SK. They are overaged ... they are OK, they are 'Lakay' [Dionne for old]," Domogan added.

Comelec, however, must be given time to prepare because the law also requires the poll body to conduct computerized elections.

Comelec prepared

At the Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said the October elections for officials of barangays and youth councils was necessary because it would replace old officials and create better delivery of basic services.

Ramón Mamilland, one of the country's top election lawyers, said many barangay officials are already overstaying and they needed fresh mandates for the people.

Thousands of first-time voters trooped to Comelec offices in recent weeks, hoping to register for the barangay and youth council elections. —Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon with report from Arsenio Anirig in Manila

Fish pens banned in Pangasinan town

FISH PENS occupy a large area of Carmelo, Pangasinan. Photo was taken during an air tour by the Philippine Air Force's 505th Search and Rescue Squadron.

DAGUPAN CITY, Pangasinan—The municipal government here would no longer allow the owners of fish pens in the town after a moratorium on the construction of these structures was imposed two years ago following a massive fish kill that hit the coastal towns.

Mayor Marylena Fenarcio said allowing fish pens to thrive again would result in the pollution of the town's rivers and, "consequently, the deadliest red tide [algae] outbreak [fish] kills."

At least 70 percent of the town's area is devoted to fishponds, which are scattered in its 33 villages.

Campaign promise

"Besides, it was my election campaign promise and I'd like to think that the people reelected me because of that," Fenarcio, now on his second term, said.

At least P1.5 million worth of bangus were belly-up in 2005 as rainwater, fish feces and pesticides due to low dissolved oxygen level.

Fenarcio said the town's agricultural officer said overfeeding in the fish pens brought about the condition. This polluted the river to the point that even fish that were not consumed by the fish settled on the water and rotted, he said.

Fishpounds relied on the rivers here to refresh its water during the changing of the tides in the Lingayen Gulf.

Opening the river

Fenarcio said without the fish pens, local fishermen could now fish in the rivers freely for their food.

He said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has set up satellite stations in the rivers to monitor water quality "in preparation for an oyster farm that we are going to establish."

"We are now also conducting a hydrological survey to establish our own farms in Dagupan City. This town and Lingayen are also registered in the search by a tributary of the Agno River.

"I'm very happy because many of the fishers that have disappeared from our rivers are now coming back," Fenarcio said.

Fenarcio said by next year, he hopes to build a fish center here, which was a major revenue source for this town in the 1990s.

"Most of the large consignments (wholesalers) in Dagupan City are from this town. So we might as well build our own," he said.

He said he is now looking for funds for the construction of the fish center. Gabriel Carallasan, Inquirer Northern Luzon

A WORLD WAR II veteran stands beside an American flag that was to be unveiled as Baguio City celebrated its 96th Charter Day, but his role in the program was bumped off in a night schedule.

Spotlight falls on Koreans at Baguio's Charter Day

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—SOMEDAY (DECades) and students toured the city's historic monuments as part of the goodwill project of the 96th Baguio Charter Day celebration on Saturday.

Two classes of the Saint Louis University's Special Program for English and Literature (SPEL) woke up early to visit the Wright Park, the Botanical Garden and the marching cadets of the Philippine Military Academy to learn the story of their hometown, and then 4 Peas, a 10-year-old SLU student.

But, who is called Christine by classmates, said she has been in the city for only two months and was not aware of the ballyhoo history here from marching here.

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) said a task force created by the city government here been sending all foreigners that are partly retired or that came to the 6,000 Koreans who live in Baguio.

Immigration officials have filed charges against three Korean landowners who violated laws limiting foreign ownership of local property to 10 percent.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. called for unity in his Baguio Day speech, which he presented to an audience that included visiting Korean and Japanese delegates.

But he later told the Inquirer that unscrupulous Korean entrepreneurs have forced him to shut some of those down.

Antonio Perez, chief of the BI office here, said few more cheaps in the city were closed and their Korean owners sued for operating without working permits.

The SLU goodwill tour for foreign students was not part of activities for Baguio Day, but Marites Padilla, executive director of the Baguio Centennial Commission, said foreigners would always play a role in the summer capital's bouncing celebration because of its history.

Baguio was created by the American colonial government in 1900.

Padilla said negative experience vs a growing foreign presence may be natural, but people should consider that Baguio, as shown by its history, has always been a "global village."

Dr. Chester Cheng, a Chinese-Filipino, opened a small exhibit highlighting how the construction of Session Road helped "create multiculture" Baguio.

The Session Road (formerly called the Bridget Road) project, one of the most expensive ventures projects by the American government in the early 1900s, brought in different nationalities to build the 41 km mountain road, the shortest among the three routes to the city from the lowlands. With reports from Abdulaziz Arbaidah and Isabelle Rose Ayeda, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Negros Oriental looks for ways to keep doctors

By Barry G. Arboneda and Jovel Arnaiz
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE Negros Oriental provincial government, through the provincial health office, is now looking for ways to keep doctors from leaving government hospitals.

Provincial Health Officer Dante U. Domingo said when the provincial government could not increase the salary of government doctors because of the ceiling set by the salary standardization law for government workers, one possible incentive is to allow them to engage in private practice during their off duty hours.

Domingo said although there were still many doctors who are motivated by the desire to serve the people and not by money, their salaries were very small.

Domingo said three were doctors in the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital (NORPH) that were still receiving P10,000 a month, which, he said, was the salary of a security guard of the Government Service Insurance System.

Former Provincial Health Officer Ely Villapando said the lure pay of government doctors was one of the reasons many doctors availed training to land high-paying nursing jobs abroad.

Among the 45 doctors of NORPH, Domingo said only he and six others have not availed nursing.

The same trend of doctors availing nursing was also happening in Southern Leyte.

Four doctors from Southern Leyte's provincial hospital were among the new nurses who passed the licensure examination in names released on Aug. 29.

The nursing licensure exam passers are residing at the barangays Opao Vhigmo Memorial Provincial Hospital.

WAR BOUND
A Marine inspects one of several cannons that were put on display for the arrival of Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, the newly appointed head of the Philippine Marines. Several of these cannons were brought and would be brought to Basilan and Sulu for the military's all-out offensive against members of the terror group Abu Sayyaf and rogue Moro guerrillas.

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Panlilio shows anger at bank exec over checks

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio displayed anger for the first time when he scolded a Philippine National Bank manager who announced what was supposed to be the branch's decision not to honor checks signed by the provincial government's administration.

Panlilio, a Catholic priest, reprimanded PNB San Fernando Business manager Al Jane Jose during their meeting at the governor's office on Friday, two officials present in the meeting told the Inquirer.

Nervous

"He was nervous. He was nauseating his fingers the whole time that Among (Father) Ed was speaking to him," recalled one of the officials.

The angered and PNB manager said Panlilio, 53, did not raise his voice or point a finger, one said.

"I noticed that Among Ed's voice was firmer than usual as he expressed his dismay over the 'utter disrespect' of PNB officials and the representatives of their decision to the services of the provincial government," the angered source said.

Reached by phone, Jose confirmed that Panlilio was rather candid with his views and reactions.

Disrespect

Panlilio confirmed his scolding of Jose. "I am offended by their utter disrespect. Imagine, we have extended PNB's deadline from two weeks to two months to give us the documentary requirements on why we should continue banking with them as we try to conform with a Department of Finance instruction to transfer accounts to government depository banks like the Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines. Then this letter by Mr. Jose comes without them asking our side on the confirmation of Administrator Vivian Dabu," Panlilio said.

Jose's Aug. 20 letter informed Panlilio that the PNB had received on Aug. 15 letter by Sangguniang Panlalawigan secretary Lito Rivera about the non-confirmation of Dabu and that the PNB legal department had issued a memorandum "wherein with due respect and deep regret we are obliged to dishonor provincial treasurer's checks bearing (Dabu's) countersignature."

Single parents

Rivera also furnished the PNB a copy of Resolution No. 836 through which the provincial board did not confirm the appointments of Dabu and provincial legal officer Maria Elena Nitra over questions on their moral and professional qualifications.

Dabu and Nitra had said nothing was morally wrong about their being single parents as a result of their decision to raise their respective children after separation or by way of adoption. They said they believed they were highly qualified to serve the government.

"We joined the government with good intentions. We are not grafters nor are we law-breakers," Dabu told the Inquirer.

Rivera also wrote Jose on Aug. 16 inviting him to attend the Sept. 3 session of the provincial board on "charges the non-confirmation" of Dabu and Nitra. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer General Luzon

INQUIRER Mindanao

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Giving hope to the physically-challenged

MARLON flying producers custom-built wheelchairs for people with disabilities. [illegible]

Misamis center builds wheelchairs fit for users

By Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez
Tagalaan, Misamis Occidental

MARLON AYING, 27, BEAMS proudly as he shows his latest innovation.

"For me, I improved the brakes so that it will grip tightly on the wheels and there's no chance the chair will roll off," explains Marlon, using his own chair to demonstrate what he means.

Marlon has been wheelchair-bound all his life since he accidentally pulls an arc welder. Despite his disability, his family loved and supported him. He finished vocational engineering in Ateneo de Cagayan Xavier University, played games in a band and even put up a small business.

"But I wanted to help people that are not as lucky as I am," says Marlon.

At that time, Ateneans engineer Matthew McCambridge was looking for skilled and hardworking persons with disability as manpower for a factory of technologically advanced wheelchairs. Matthew works for the Freedom Technology Inc., a private enterprise started by the French humanitarian organization Handicap International (HI).

"Freedom technology makes innovative, top quality custom-built wheelchairs that will allow persons with disabilities to be productive members of their community," says McCambridge.

"We modified technologies who will make wheelchairs according to a detailed specification unique to each of our client's needs," he adds.

And who else can know better the needs of people with disabilities (PWDs) than those who are also with disabilities.

When Marlon learned about Freedom Technology from a friend, he says it was this very life-calling. McCambridge readily hired him along with five other PWDs.

"I tell them they are here to work, no special treatment. They work just like the other regular guys here," says McCambridge of the PWDs that he hired.

"And they are amazing. They work fast, they are innovative, creative, and very hardworking," he adds.

The HI hired the first place to construct the wheelchairs factory in 2004 within the Poblador Extension in Tagoloan, 30 minutes from the municipal district of Cagayan de Oro City.

Marlon travels early in the factory every day. "There's no problem, my wheelchair is foldable so I can easily ride a jeepney. It's also very dynamic as it allows me to move around freely. The wheels are sturdy," says Marlon of his own product.

"Like Marlon, other PWDs can also live productively by having reliable wheelchairs custom-made for his or her needs," says Eric Wilson, HI program manager for Freedom Technology.

"What our product lines are wheelchairs that fit your lifestyle, a chair that gives you comfort but also encourages you to maximize your full potential," he says. "That's why our motto as HI is 'Vivre Debout (Live standing up)," we give a chance to PWDs to integrate in their community by improving their mobility."

Marlon says he takes it upon himself to test the wheelchairs first to make sure everything's safe and sturdy. "We keep in mind that every wheelchair we make will give a new life to someone like us. That is what motivates us."

"I'm able to help others, at the same time help my family as well," says Marlon who has to support his parents and siblings from his meager earnings.

Behind the tools and machines at his workplace in the factory, Marlon shares not an upbeat message to other PWDs: "Just don't lose hope. There's a life for you out there."

MATTHEW MCCAMBRIDGE, an expert in product design evaluation, how his mentor, Ralph Hotchkiss of the Motivside Wheelchair International, learned the innovative techniques of designing and manufacturing wheelchairs. "He learned from Filipinos. He actually studied at Tabacuhang Pekiang Hagdan decades ago. It was then the only large-scale manufacturer of custom-built wheelchairs that used locally-available materials."

Freedom Technology (FT) has orders on the condition of Tabacuhang Pekiang Hagdan in wheelchairs making and puts in global technology as added value. The only Freedom Technology subcontinuous construction is the country in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental has produced more than 300 custom-built wheelchairs for clients all over the country.

"Like in Tabacuhang Pekiang Hagdan, FT does not just make wheelchairs. There's a long process involved," says McCambridge who supervises a team of technicians in the wheelchair factory in Tagoloan.

Process

A wide network of physical therapists and social workers mobilized by Handicap International (HI), member organizations and PC jointness the process by filling in order forms signed by their patients. "The physical therapist and rehabilitation coordinator know the needs and lifestyle of their patients so we rely on them to make sure every wheelchair we make fits the client," says McCambridge.

The order forms are then realized and submitted to the Tagoloan factory. The technicians team leader will draw sketches according to the specific needs indicated in the order form. The finished product must pass through two phases of quality check before it is delivered to the client. Every wheelchair takes two weeks to one month to finish.

In its product catalogue, Freedom Technology emphasizes its capability to customize and personalize wheelchairs, with high emphasis on quality. "Like prescription eyeglasses, a wheelchair should be customtailored to the specific need of the client," it states.

"But these are not like the expensive ones imported from abroad," quips McCambridge and explains that they use locally available raw materials to reduce the costs and for easy maintenance and repairs.

Most of the FT clients are also beneficiaries of HI in Misamis, among them war victims who are given free rehabilitation treatments. Although many of our clients are indigents, we don't just give away the wheelchairs. We make sure the client provides equity even as small as P500 will do," says McCambridge of their strategy of instilling a sense of ownership among the users of their wheelchair.

"This way, they give value to the product and they won't think twice of abandoning it if the product has a defect. It's a nice way of getting customer feedback," he adds.

Unsafe practice

Cecile Rey, Philippines Programs Director of HI, admits that there's still so much work to do.

"There's more than half a million PWDs in the country who either does not have wheelchairs or use ordinary wheelchairs that are not custom-made for them," she says. Now reaching in 2005 years in the Philippines, HI works in over 60 countries around the globe and partners with public and private organizations in its planned programs focused on mainstreaming PWDs in various development opportunities and working for the prevention of disability and disabling situations.

Rey also expresses alarm over the practice of many international charity organizations that go to a developing country like the Philippines and give away ordinary wheelchairs for free without checking if it fits the user. "While their motive may be good, giving any wheelchairs at random is not safe," she says.

McCambridge says such wheelchairs could do more harm than good. "A PWD who sits on an ill-fitting and old wheelchair 16 hours a day can develop severe sores and back problems," he says. Ma. Cecilia J. Rodriguez

Schoolchildren get English, Math workbooks

By Edwin G. Fernandez
Contributor/Cebu

THE UNITED STATES AGENCY for International Development (USAID) has recently released 61,000 workbooks in English and Mathematics this school year in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The distribution of the reading materials came as blessing for Grades 1 to 3 pupils in public elementary schools in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and Shariff Kabunsuan as the Department of Education continues to deal with the perennial problem on the shortage of books.

Thomas Cochran, USAID chief of education, said pupils in the towns of Datu's and Ronda Qui in Shariff Kabunsuan, Datu Paglas in Maguindanao, Marawi City, Isabilan and Sitio in Sulu, Bongao and Panglima Sugala in Tawi-Tawi were beneficiaries of the Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS 2) project.

Cochran said the workbooks were developed by the Synergeia Foundation, an EQuALLS implementing partner, and were given as part of an effort to complement the Department's textbooks distribution program.

"This is to help alleviate the scarcity of textbooks in the public school system in poor communities in southern Philippines," Cochran said in a statement.

He said the USAID also aims to motivate to reading among the pupils in these poor communities.

"Each student gets workbooks in reading and mathematics and the beautifully designed books would stir interest among pupils into reading and number," Cochran said.

The workbooks cover lessons for the entire school year and feature exercises meant to raise the pupils to higher levels of learning and to test if they have improved their mastery of the subjects, he said.

"These materials have been framed to reinforce learning inside the classroom by providing each student with work exercises on their day-to-day lessons," Mayor Albert Que of Bongao, Tawi-Tawi was quoted as saying during the recent distribution of workbooks to schoolchildren of Ilaca Baloc Elementary School in the said town.

"School heads of schools nationwide said the materials have been very helpful as it was instrumental in raising the scores of primary schoolchildren in Mathematics and making the curriculum more innovative to effective and fast readers," Junior Faye Sevilla, EQuALLS communications officer, said in another statement.

Dr. Udtog Kawit, ARMM education secretary, lauded the USAID for the support it has been providing to the region.

"This fantastic act for the betterment of our schoolchildren will always be remembered. Teacher-beneficiaries are now equipped with the needed skills and instructional aids to increase the level of education of our poor schoolchildren," Kawit said.

In Sitio Ijit, for example, an upland agricultural town 30 kilometers south of here, the reading program has reduced the number of nonreaders from a high of 87 percent in 2005 to 16 percent by the end of the school year in 2006-2007, according to Sevilla.

"This means that when the program started, only two of 10 pupils had appropriate reading skills and the rest were nonreaders. This year, eight of 10 pupils in Grades 2 and 3 now have appropriate reading skills," Sevilla said.

EQuALLS also provided manuals for teachers and school heads.

The teachers' manuals, Sevilla said, are equipped with daily lesson plans that can burden teachers of the task of daily lesson plan preparation, "allowing them to devote more energy in devising creative ways to make learning more fun and interesting for their students."

This is the third year that the USAID-EQuALLS project has provided children's workbooks and teachers' manuals in the ARMM.

Sevilla said over the past three years, EQuALLS has provided educational resources to a total of 225,235 elementary school students in the region.

The ARMM is one of the country's regions with a low literacy rate.

UMADE 1 pupils in the school of Sitio Sulu show off their new workbooks given by the United States Agency for International Development. [illegible]

NEWS

Déjà vu for Lenny Villa's ma

By Dalila T. Maliar Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TIAONG, QUEZON—FOR GERARDA VILLA, THE mother of another hazing victim who died 16 years ago, the sight of the lifeless and battered body of UP senior student Cris Anthony Mendez was one painful déjà vu.

"They have the same dismissing of events. Their bodily beat... ni brother were both brought in the hospital by three suitcases

...ushered him hurriedly left. Based on news accounts, I can say I again experienced the death of Lenny" Villa, president of the Gremio Against Violence (GAV), told the business in an interview at the Mendez house in Barangay Talisay on Saturday.

Villa's son Lenny was a neophyte of Aquila Legis, a fraternity in the Ateneo de Manila University. Lenny Villa died, who died after three days of bloody hazing also in February 1991.

Lenny, a first year Ateneo student, died of serious physical injuries as the Chinese General Hospital where he was rushed.

Villa said they won the case in the lower court against 26 members of the Aquila Legis but it was overturned by the Court of Appeals. The case is now with the Supreme Court.

"Every time there's a hazing victim, my heart bleeds in grief. I remember my son. It's really lonely," Villa said.

"What else should we do? We've already started all efforts to stop this hazing practice but it seems our labors are not enough. I'm afraid that I would not be able to see the fruits of our campaign to totally stop hazing," she added.

Her Mendez family members believed that the 22-year-old graduating UP student was not a hazing victim.

"The family could not claim. He belief that Cris died from hazing. He wouldn't engage himself to such group. Besides, he did not mention anything about fraternity when he was still alive," said village chair Ibdes Pasquin, who spoke in behalf of the family.

Pasquin feared that Cris could have been a victim of a fees for all resulting because of the presence of fatal injuries in different parts of his body.

During the interview, Cris' mother, Cristina Garcia Mendez, declined to answer questions and just silently sat beside the casket of her son.

Doc to talk, finally, on hazing victim

By Jaconeta L. Andrada

THE DOCTOR OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL Medical Center (VMMC) who brought unconscious hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez to the government hospital has finally expressed willingness to break his silence and disclose what he knows about the death of the 20-year-old UP Diliman student.

Chief Inspector Lina Bonang of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) told the Inquirer that Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr., the assistant chief of the VMMC ophthalmology department, was willing to give a statement to the police to explain how he brought Cris to the hospital.

"We talked for a few minutes and initially he told me that Cris was brought to his house in Congressional Village at around midnight of Monday (Aug. 27)," Bonang said. But the doctor did not disclose the names of those who took Cris to his house.

Based on VMMC hospital records, Cris brought Cris to the hospital at around 3:00 a.m., Monday, when he was declared dead on arrival.

Bonang said Cruz had promised to surrender on the right time, but did not give any definite period.

A source in the QCPD, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about the case, said Cruz's lawyer had initially wanted to provide his client's statement on Friday but was apparently hesitant to do the indignation rally staged by UP students and academe.

An emergency room report obtained by the Inquirer indicated that Cris was already dead when he was brought to the Veterans hospital. His fingernails and lips were blackened and his pupils dilated.

Victim of mauling

The report indicated that Cris had told attending doctors that Cris was a victim of "mauling" but did not provide any more details. The report also indicated the bruising on the back of the arms and thighs of Cris.

Autopsy findings on Cris' remains had revealed the Cris died in his sleep.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) Crime Laboratory Service has yet to release its autopsy report.

Top UP officials have vowed to determine the cause of Cris' death and bring its perpetrators to justice.

"Like UP Diliman Chancellor Sergio S. Cao, I wish to assure the Mendez family, and the general public, that the UP administration will spare no effort to determine the cause of this cruel death and bringing its perpetrators to justice," UP President Emerlinda R. Roman said in a statement.

Roman, who is currently touring UP alumni in the US, called on all members of the UP community and alumni to assist Cao in his investigation, and to cooperate in concerted efforts to prevent a repeat of the senseless violence.

"The senseless, irrational violence is not only a fashion blot on the University's record, but a source of great sorrow to individual families," Roman said.

UP officials have announced the preventive suspension of all the officers of the Sigma Rho fraternity to ensure an impartial investigation of the death of Cris.

Cris was reportedly recruited by the fraternity prior to his death. It was also Nardo Arin, the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) chair and Sigma Rho member, who allegedly was the last person seen with Cris on Saturday afternoon.

Aside is a fellow of Cris in the NCPAG student council but Cris represents the college in the UP student council. Aside has not surfaced since news of Cris' death circulated in the UP community. He has remained incommunicado and has not been attending his classes at UP.

Meanwhile, the Mendez family appealed to those who may have some information about what really happened to Cris to come out and cooperate with the authorities to bring justice to his senseless death.

Aplus METRO

Architect sees the light in a dark world

Being blind has not stopped him from pursuing what he loves: Designing and building structures

By Margaux C. Ortiz

JAUME Silva says he finally accepted the loss of his eyesight when he married using a cane in 1992. PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEC CORTEMAR

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN designing homes for exclusive villages was Antec Silva's life.

"It was what I really wanted to do since I was a kid," Silva, who is in his 50s, said in an interview in his Makati office. he loved two things: Drawing and mathematics, and architecture combined those two.

"It was a good time: I was doing the thing I loved most and enjoying it," Silva recalled. But then, almost literally to the blink of an eye, he lost it all.

Silva and his twin brother, Tomas, were diagnosed with congenital glaucoma at birth. Although the condition causes a buildup of increased pressure within the eyeball, throughout their childhood and teenage years, the irreparable happened.

As they reached adulthood, they began to lose their eyesight.

Tomas' glaucoma surfaced when he was in his 40s but Jaime's condition proved to be more severe.

"Tomas can still see light and shadows and he can walk on his own without using a cane," Silva said. He, on the other hand, became blind at age 28.

Silva said he stopped working and immediately flew to the United States to undergo surgery.

Series of surgeries

"I thought that after the operation, I could go back to work," he said. But several more surgeries over the next eight years followed.

Silva said he felt hopeful after each operation because he could see clearly. But after some time, his world would become blurry and then turn dark again.

After 16 surgeries, Silva and his wife, Iris, decided to enter home and reminisce their disrupted lives with their children. It took some time before he adjusted to the fact that he would not be able to do design because architecture as architecture was "a visual occupation."

Silva then ventured into wholesaling, pepper farming and retail but found out that these were not for him. "I felt so unproductive and my self-esteem plummeted," he recalled.

Fly was still hopeful that his eyesight would someday be restored. But when he started using a cane in 1992, he gradually accepted the fact that he would never be able to see again.

Moving on, finally

"When that realization hit me, I looked for other things to do. The hope of seeing again prevented me from moving on," Silva said.

One day someone suggested that he drop by a new computer school for the blind in Pasay City. "Computers were just starting to take off when I lost my eyesight in the early 1980s. I had no idea what they were all about," Silva said, laughing.

After studying for three months, Silva helped his brother-in-law build a house. It was then that he realized he could go back to architecture, not as a designer, but as a "construction manager."

"My track once that the construction went smoothly and efficiently, overseeing the materials and the equipment," Silva said.

After that, Silva managed the construction of single-detached houses and commercial low-rise buildings until he got involved in the construction of the BPI building on Chino Roces Avenue.

"When the building owners asked me if I wanted to manage this building, I immediately said yes. I took courses on property management at the Avenue de Manila Institute to prepare myself for the job," Silva said.

At the same time, Silva was asked to join meetings of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons.

"I was designated head of the monitoring support group of the NCWDP subcommittee on accessibility," Silva said. One of the committee's jobs was to look into funding channels that had failed to implement basic accessibility facilities for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

As he got busier, Silva learned to manage his time and priorities. "While conducting dialogues with landlord chain administrators regarding PWD-friendly toilets, I was assessing for tenants for the newly constructed SPC building," Silva said.

He added, "So I was working on my accessibility advocacy the Lord was also raising care of my career."

In 2000, Silva was asked to head the United Architects of the Philippines' committee on accessibility for gave talks on accessibility before members of the organization nationwide.

"I told them about things like buses 344 and the importance of access facilities for PWDs in all buildings," Silva said.

Under the law, according to the architect, buildings must comply with five basic requirements: They must construct accessible ramps and toilets, reserve special parking spaces for PWDs, use non-skid materials and ensure that their signages are accurate.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency later recognized Silva's efforts after he attended the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand in 2000.

JICA officials asked him to organize a national convention on accessibility in 2005 and embark on a five-year project for the improvement of 1,9021 facilities in the Philippines, especially in the provinces.

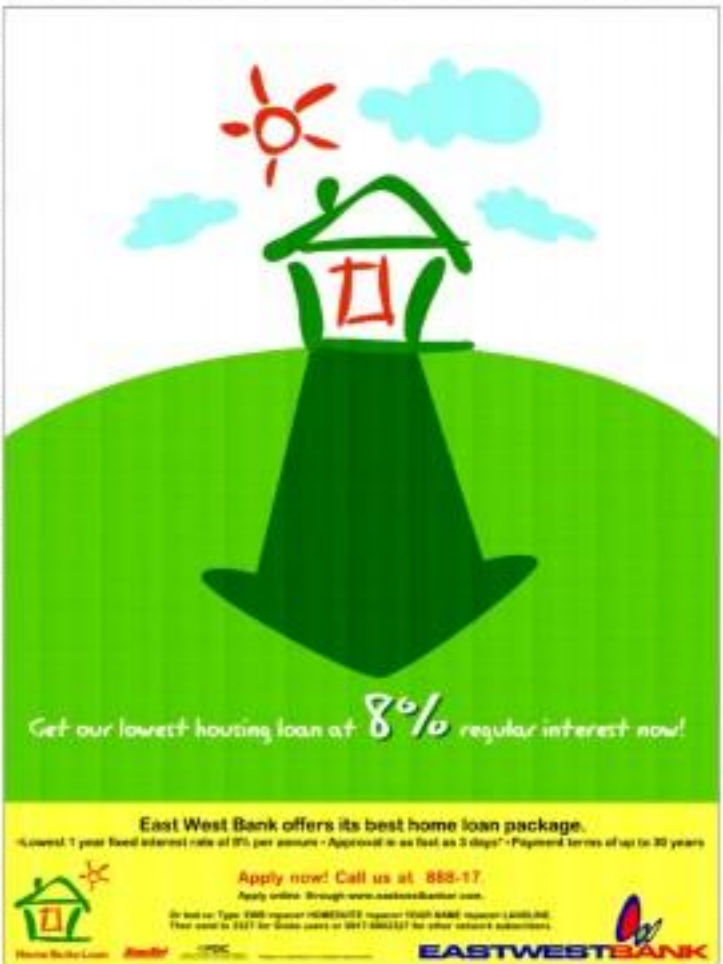
"About 85 to 90 percent of PWDs in the country live in the province," Silva said. Most of them, he lamented, live in deplorable conditions.

He stressed that only good access facilities could level the playing field for PWDs. By improving these facilities, Silva said the number of rehabilitated PWDs could increase from the current two to three percent.

Apart from working with the NCWDP and JICA, Silva is also president of the Makati Federation for Persons with Disabilities and a local organization on Chino Roces Avenue, which he founded a few years ago to improve the quality of business in the area.

"I just want to be proactive in all the things I do. Be it in my career or helping those around me," Silva said, smiling.

SILVA uses a computer specially designed for the blind at his office.



"OCW's people can't [and cry] until the last ounce we are running out of doctors; public health need can be left only in the hands of doctors."

ALVAN BELTRAN, December 2006

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail: [illegible]

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"The section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to weave a better life for their families. Yours are here stories.

Palace officer drops everything for man of her dreams

By Michael Lim Ubac

AUCKLAND—HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO follow your heart? For Evangeline Carillo-Hilton, she would follow it to the ends of the earth. Vangie's extraordinary search for love spanned the terms of five Philippine presidents and brought her thousand of miles away from home. She's nine.

Before she met her husband nearly four years ago, she was twisting and turning in a space she felt could not contain her. Or, by when she stepped out of a shell-word life did she finally meet the man of her dreams.

That whirlwind encounter in this foreign land one spring forever changed her life.

She had to drop everything, including a rewarding career in Malacañang, to start a new life in New Zealand.

"I filed my retirement in October 2005 after my marriage in March 2004," said Vangie in an interview last June, just as the chilly breeze was ushering in the winter season in this southernmost country in the Pacific.

Spring of love

The self-spoken former Malacañang information officer, who had served under Presidents Fernando Marcos to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, recalled meeting her future husband during a "spring of love" in New Zealand.

"I went to Auckland in 2003 for a one-month visit," she said, admitting that more did it enter her mind that a British national would stay in Manila town would need her heart.

Apparently, it was love at first sight for Christopher Hilton, a retired mechanical engineer who once served in the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom.

When she returned to Manila, the agony of indecision tormented her day and night.

The proverbial burning bed sent Vangie packing her bags in no time. She came back here on Christmas Eve, married Chris and settled in the sleepy but picturesque town of Pukki, a two-hour ride from Auckland.

Looking back, she said it's not Pukki friends, which offers 9 kilometers of sweeping white sand and is one of the safest surf beaches in this country that attracted her to New Zealand.

Vangie, brought up in old-fashioned ways, is no fan of boogie boarding, kayaking or other beach-ing, either.

It is the simple life that lured her and over 20,000 Filipinos to migrate to this land popularly known to have more sheep than humans.

One of the most famous gold mining towns in the country, which is in the middle of nowhere, has only 80 Filipinos, They call it your kind-of-town, with old-wooden buildings, a white sand beach where one can enjoy shellfish collecting and fishing.

"Being married to a retiree does not mean a boring life," said Vangie.

"Now, I can do the other things I've always longed to do: fishing, cooking, gardening, reading, craftwork like beading and embroidery."

Both share a fascination for classical music and, as if to spite Indiya a union of two cultures, they play jigsaw puzzles.

"We listen to classical music and discuss our favorite literature," she said. "We also spend hours and hours doing jigsaw puzzles. At present, we're into 4,000-pieces."

But it's not pure "intellectual" pursuits that they enjoy doing together.

"We have just driving in the countryside on sunny days, or cooking in the kitchen-diner-lounge," she said of the sharply-sensible cuisine which lies at the southern end of the Coromandel Peninsula in New Zealand's North Island.

Life in Malacañang

With Chris, her life now is a far cry from the high-profile one she left back in Manila.

Vangie had seen tumultuous times up close at the Palace for 11 years.

Right after finishing journalism at the University of the Philippines, she landed a job as feature writer in the Bureau of National and Foreign Information, then an agency of the Department of Public Information.

The Office was renamed the Office of Communication Services, under the Office of the Press Secretary after the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

Vangie relishes the near-decade spent in the government's media machinery, doing media-related production.

"My work was very rewarding in the sense that I was able to do something I always loved to do—writing and photography," she said, aside from hosting evening news series. "Highly inspirational in the field of journalism."

She will vividly recall the camaraderie among officemates and friends, and of course the "perks," which included meeting the country's media people and visiting celebrities and government officials from other countries.

But for all that, she did not keep a single picture with any of the presidents she had served.

"Friends, relatives in the Philippines had the mistaken notion that I was able to see the President up close in the course of my work. Hence, the comments, 'you must have bought of picture taken with the President.'"

"Goodness sake, I've served five Presidents, had the opportunity to be with the coverage team during presidential visits, but not one photo with any of those Presidents," she quips.

1st photo with RP president

As the made a visit, which was instantly granted, during the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to New Zealand, from May 30 to 31, 2007.

But moments without him was meaningless, she would discover later.

As love did to the two people separated by great distance and cultural differences, most? Sex essentially a fairy-tale-girl meets-prince-at-an-TV-swap.

They were introduced to each other by a mutual friend, Zora Couple, from Auckland through the Internet.

"E-mails were exchanged (as many as four a day) between us beginning April 28, 2003," said Vangie, who was then 51 and "never been married."

She met Chris, then 66, divorced and with three grown-up children.

"It was in September 2003 when I first came to NZ to personally meet Christopher. I stayed in his home in Waihi for a month, and met his many friends there," she said, recalling that even the weather set the tone for their love affair.

Don't marry a stranger

"It was springtime—when everything was starting to bloom. What an appropriate time for a new love to blossom! Now, in the same time he was still feeling the loneliness that is naturally our commitment to divorce, and I was just recovering from a broken heart."

She went home back to Manila [illegible] and continued [illegible].

"Should I marry him?" Vangie kept on nagging herself.

She was looking for the sign.

"Is he the one?"

The sister provided the answers.

"If one of his e-mails to me when I was back in Manila, he wrote: 'I would understand if you changed your mind about marrying me. The crucial decision had to be made.'" Vangie told herself.

She said her anxiety were not very pleasant with the idea of "marrying a total stranger."

"You know how it is with the Filipino culture—one has to consider the family in making decisions, especially that of a marriage," said Vangie. Never mind if she's way too old to commit her family on married plans.

"I was at a crossroads—I was living comfortably with my salary from the government, and I was enjoying the office, and the post I held was, to a certain extent, very reputable.

"Through the years, I have had made many good friends, and had enjoyed life with my family. Would I be prepared to give these up, marry Chris and live in smaller environs?"

Grandma's advice

In the end, love triumphed.

"It was perhaps my desire to be up on my feet again and get on with life [instead] of allowing the old wound [heart] that made me decide to marry Chris," she said.

Frankly, I was not head over heels in love with him, but he was with me. Then I remembered my [grandmother's] advice to us: marry a man who will love you more than you love him."

He may be not that young, but the genuine assured her of his faithfulness, "and that he would try his very best to please and make (her) happy," said Vangie.

He they tied the knot on March 27, 2004 at the St. James Presbyterian Church in Waihi. It was doubly momentous for Chris because it was his 67th birthday.

So far, the husband kept his word to love and to cherish his wife. "Yes, indeed! Chris was the most loving and kind man I've met. I did not have any difficulty adjusting to a new culture, much more adjusting to a married life with a retiree," she said.

Lady of leisure

At their conjugal home, it was Chris who did most of the adjusting to Vangie.

"He has been very patient with me, as I tend to be strong-willed and stubborn at times. He feels have our opinions/ideas, and there don't interfere with our married life."

As she has always told Chris, Vangie felt that every day is a holiday or a Sunday.

"I need not get up early to prepare for the day's work, as I used to when I had a job in Manila. Now I would sleep in my heart's content without worrying about breakfast to make, or deadlines to beat."

Their friendliness her as a "lady of leisure." To compensate for her poverty deprivation, she does the cooking, and Chris has always complimented "her culinary skills."

"What he did not know was that most of my cooking was unprofessional. I have heaps of recipe books and magazines, but I hardly used them," she said the recipe always give her "inspiration." "The beautiful presentation of the food makes them look delicious," she said.

But not all is rosy in this picturesque country.

Vangie tried working in a bluberries orchard for two, picking berries, and also had a stint as grader in a kiwi fruit packing house. "These are seasonal work, usually from March to April for blueberries, and April to July for the kiwi fruits," she said.

But with Chris, Vangie realized another dream fulfilled...to live overseas. "While working at the OPS, I managed to save money so I could travel to countries that had always fascinated me, mainly in Europe," she says.

Beautiful all-year round

In less last e-mail to the focus, she wrote: "Winter is almost over. In a week's time, it will be spring. But NZ is beautiful all year round."

And beautiful it is since, as Vangie discovered, love blossoms everywhere.

Marrying Chris is not the best thing that ever happened to her. There are regrets in leaving one's native land.

But as one famous British soul singer says, "there's no use in crying since the pieces don't fit any more."

LOVE blooms in springtime between Vangie Carillo and Christopher Hilton now back in the autumn of their years. They exchanged "I do's" amid the serene but scenic green of Waihi Beach in New Zealand in March 2004.

Getting a US visa is not enough

THE VISITOR VISA (B2): If the most commonly used visa by those entering the US for purpose of visiting for pleasure or business. This visa is used in order that the holder may engage in limited legitimate activities of recreational character. Unfortunately, even for those who have been using their B1 visas in the past may still experience unqualified removal at the port of entry. This unqualified removal is usually due to "suspect intent." But how can one avoid being seen back despite the possession of a valid visa?

Maria has a B1/B2 (visitors) visa. She regularly enters the US every summer for the last five years (until he met Peter three years ago. Peter dated Maria and even goes to Manila often to see Maria.

Maria, a Filipina national working in US (Hint), have a necessary to fellowship. Peter proposed to Maria and both agreed on the date and place of marriage. They went to get married in Las Vegas NV and Maria will then adjust her status to the US.

B2 visa

Maria and Peter planned to marry in June 2007. So in April 2007, Maria submitted the US visiting her B2 visa. She was asked by the CSP to appear at the port of entry at the San Francisco International Airport regarding the purpose of her trip. She said that she was entering the US to get married and to apply for adjustment of status. At that time, Maria was told by immigration officer that she was entering the US with the wrong visa. Maria claims that it is always the kind of visa that she uses in entering the US. She returned to Manila and was told to get a fiancé visa before entering the US.

B2 visa is intended for visitors entering the United States for "purposes of vacation or to make casual visits to relatives or friends. The foreign affairs Manual (FAM) also includes specific activities that are permissible international activities—including visits for medical treatment, participating in conventions, conferences, or activities of fraternal, social or service organizations; dependents of certain businessmen or aliens following to join the principal alien; dependents of members of any branch of the US armed forces temporarily assigned for duty in the United States; and for short course of study incidental to the temporary visit for pleasure (to attend/study example a two-week, nonacademic course on wine-making or a similar recreational activity).

The B1 visa is the appropriate visa for the fiancé of a US citizen who intends to remain in the United States with his or her spouse.

A B2 visa may be issued and used to enter the US only in circumstances where the applicant is entering by United States (US) employer to meet the fiancé's family (2) to become engaged, (3) to make arrangements for the wedding; or (4) to renew a relationship with the prospective spouse (provided the consular officer is satisfied that the fiancé intends in return to his or her residence abroad.

Fiancé visa

In the case of Maria, it was clear based on her interview at the port of entry that she was coming in the US to marry her US citizen boyfriend. She also clearly indicated that she was going to live with in the US after she gets married. This resulted in the refusal of her admission considering that her sole intention was to marry and be with her US citizen spouse. She should have taken the necessary step to obtain her fiancé visa. While she was able to enter in the past with a B2 visa, it does not necessarily follow that in subsequent entry she will be admitted again especially if the intention is different and not experimentable entry of a B2 visa holder. The intention to enter the US must be clearly manifested every time one enters the US and this becomes a key factor in determining admissibility to a visitor visa holder.

(IMFO stands for immigration information. Lawyer Lourdes Sauter answers may be emailed at imfo@yahoo.com).

IMFO

Lourdes Sauter

Sauter

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Guava

Seoul said to have paid $20-M ransom

Taliban commander says money to be used for arms, more suicide attacks

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—South Korea paid Afghanistan's Taliban more than $20 million to release 19 missionaries they were holding hostage, a senior insurgent boasted said on Saturday, vowing to use the funds to buy arms and mount suicide attacks.

"We got more than $20 million from them (the Seoul government)," the commander told Reuters on condition of anonymity. "We'll use our share to buy weapons, get our commanders more armored and buy vehicles for carrying out more suicide attacks."

"The money will also address to some extent the financial difficulties we have had," he said, without giving details.

The commander is on the 10-man leadership council of the Islamist Taliban movement, which is led by the elusive Mullah Mohammad Omar.

But in Seoul, Foreign Minister Song Min-soon said Saturday that South Korea had no choice about negotiating with the Taliban with the threat of 19 hostages at stake.

Song made the remarks as

RELEASED! South Korean hostages in Medina embrace at the Right to Dubai at Kabul Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Aug. 31. Afghanistan South Koreans freed by Taliban kidnappers were arrived aboard a plane on Friday as their governments denied allegations that it paid a ransom to end the six-week hostage standoff. —

South Korea came under fire for negotiating with the rebels.

When asked why Seoul had negotiated with the insurgents in breach of international norms, Song said other countries would understand the dilemma facing the government.

"The government struggled to strike a balance between the international norms and current overarching duty kind of issue and the absolute, primary duty that we have to save the people's lives," Song told journalists.

"The international community will understand it well," he said.

The South Korean government has come under some pressure from the families of the hostages in Afghanistan and has any missionary activities in the country.

But those conditions were already planned for, running stopovers of a backroom deal involving ransom.

Asked whether Seoul had paid any ransom, Song said only: "Nothing like that happened."

The South Korean Christian missionaries, part of a group of 23 (six nationals kidnapped in southern Afghanistan in mid-July, arrived in Dubai on a chartered United Nations plane overnight and were then to be on to Seoul on Saturday.

The Taliban killed two male hostages, while two women released earlier as a gesture of peace have already flown home.

Some of the released hostages on Friday told of how they lived in constant fear for their lives and were right up into small groups and diarrhea around the Afghan countryside to avoid detection.

One Taliban member would send in a flame by day and then grab a rifle and stand guard over hostages at night.

The kidnapping was the largest in the resurgent Taliban campaign against foreign forces since US-led troops ousted the Islamist from power in 2001. Reuters, AFP

US Marine shot 5 unarmed Iraqis, court told

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA—A Marine accused of murdering 17 Iraqis shot dead five unarmed men before ordering a fellow soldier to help cover up the killings, a court heard on Friday.

Lance Corporal Justin DeLa Cruz said he saw Sergeant Frank Wuterich open fire on the five men, some of whom had their arms raised, shortly after a roadside bomb struck in the town of Haditha on Nov. 19, 2005.

Prosecutors say Wuterich led Marines on a killing spree in Haditha that left 24 Iraqis dead in retaliation for the bomb attack which claimed the life of a popular comrade. The preliminary hearing at the Marines' Camp Pendleton base will determine whether Wuterich will face a court martial in the killings.

DeLa Cruz, who was one of four Marines initially charged with murder before being granted immunity in exchange for his testimony said Wuterich shot the men standing next to a car parked at the side of the road near the bomb site.

"They were just standing there, some with their hands interlocked ... Then I saw one of the men drop to the ground," DeLa Cruz said.

"I heard some pops—pop, pop, pop. I looked around and I saw Sergeant Wuterich kneeling with his gun and shooting in their direction."

DeLa Cruz himself then fired seven rounds into the pile of dead bodies before Wuterich methodically moved through the corpses shooting each one again.

"He went to each Iraqi male and shot at them one by one," DeLa Cruz said.

Hours after the bloodshed, Wuterich sought out DeLa Cruz and told him to lie in investigators if he was questioned over the deaths.

"He told me that if anybody asks about those five Iraqis to say they were running away and the Iraqi army shot them," DeLa Cruz said.

Prosecutors also urged DeLa Cruz to lie about the deaths so three further accusations, DeLa Cruz added, saying he had gone along with the plan.

"I didn't want our company to get in trouble," he said.

Under cross-examination from Lieutenant Colonel Colby Vokey, DeLa Cruz denied being responsible for firing the first shots as the five Iraqis.

"Not didn't fire the first shots!" Vokey asked.

"No, sir," DeLa Cruz replied.

But DeLa Cruz admitted urinating on one of the bodies of the dead men.

"I knew it was wrong but at that time my emotions took over," he said.

"I wasn't really thinking right. That's what made me do it. And I thought the men were going to assume Sergeant Wuterich had shot them."

Earlier, DeLa Cruz recounted a conversation he had with Wuterich roughly a week before the killings, shortly after his group of Marines had been informed that a roadside bomb had been planted in another roadside bombing.

"Everybody was upset," DeLa Cruz said. "I was with Sergeant Wuterich and he (made a statement), 'If we ever get hit again, we shoot and kill everybody in that area so there's no more.'"

The Haditha killings are the most serious allegations of war crimes leveled at US troops since the invasion to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Defense lawyers say Wuterich followed established combat zone rules of engagement in the aftermath of the bombing.

A total of eight Marines were initially charged in connection with the Haditha deaths.

Four were charged with murder while a fifth senior officer were accused of failing to properly investigate the killings.

Of the four Marines charged with murder, two, including DeLa Cruz, have since had charges withdrawn, while allegations against a third are also expected to be dismissed. AFP

AGRICULTURE Minister Takanobu Ibuki bows his head to apologize before the press in Tokyo on Sept. 3. —

Another Japan minister linked to scandal

TOKYO—JAPAN'S AGRICULTURE minister apologized on Saturday for illegal dealings at a farmers' and association that his hands has said he would not resign from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's news cabinet.

In a news conference, Takehiko Ibuki admitted to learning more than three years ago that the organization had illegally received 1.35 million yen ($11,900) from the state, but he had neglected to inform Abe about it before his appointment on Monday.

The group, in Ibuki's constituency in northern Japan, has not returned the money to state coffers.

The farm minister's post has recently come under intense scrutiny. Ibuki's predecessor was sacked over reports of misspending and has political funding records. The previous incumbent committed suicide after a separate scandal.

Speaking to reporters in his, station, Japan, Abe urged Ibuki to clarify the issue to the public, according to Kyodo news.

"The minister has to explain the truth to the public, according to Kyodo news.

"The minister has to explain the truth to the public, according to Kyodo news.

"The minister has to explain the truth

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THE POWER TO LEAD

Sunday SPORTS

Lascuña a title threat anew in Brunei /A27

MAIN: Fernandino striker Jeff Red Warriors goes upended by opponent against Marine Knights of the PBA Tomorrow.

Warriors two off title slot; Eagles score

By Jasmine W. Payo

FOR 37 MINUTES, IT LOOKED LIKE THE Air Eastern Tomorrow had a chance to steal the game. But the University of the East Warriors again had All the right answers in the final stretch.

Mark Borboran provided the crucial baskets as the strong runners as the unbeaten Warriors scored a 79-72 victory over the Tomorrow and extend their winning run to 12 games in the UAAP men's basketball competition yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Warriors banked on a 19 spurt—a Borboran three-point play keyed ended by a James Martinez drive and a Jerid Cañezares turnaround jumper—to turn a close 60-67 lead to a 76-67 advantage with 1:37 minutes left.

Then the Warriors, who stared at their biggest deficit this season, 15-25, in the second quarter, only need to handle the strident University of the Philippines and the second running La Salle Green Archers to earn an outright Finals berth.

Borboran finished with a career-high 20 points, including three triples at the same left corner spot, to lead the Warriors.

While the Tomorrow dropped to 6th in 6-6, the Aurora Blue Eagles booted their Final four bid by dispatching the Adamson Falcons with an 81-68 rout in Isenyada dimlaw T-L.

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GUINNESS FINALS

Corteza in semis; Alcano falls

LEO Vann Corteza | Recent coverage

FILIPINO LEE VANN CORTEZA frustrated Taiwanese Chang Jung-lin, 9-5, and Filipino-Malaysian Ibrahim Bin Amin, 9-5, yesterday to barge into the semifinals of the Guinness 9-ball Tour Grand Finals at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Riyadi Hotel in Bali, Indonesia.

It was sweet revenge for Corteza, the 28-year-old top player of Negros Billiard Guilds (NBG), who lost to the Taiwanese in their title clash in the inaugural leg in Jakarta last April.

Corteza won a 1-1 win-loss card in Group H, preventing what would have been an all-Taiwanese semis one.

Corteza, who started with a 9-1 win over Singapore's Samuel Ng but lost to former world 9-ball champion Taiwan's Chao Hong-pao late Friday, is slated to face Taiwanese Wu Chia-ching in today's semis.

The other semifinal tussle pits Order of Merit leader Yang Chung-shun against countryman Chang Jung-lin.

Wu humbled Ibrahim Amin, 9-1, to send the current WPA 9-ball and WPA 8-ball champion packing home.

The 34-year-old Mexico scored a 9-7 victory over Indon Ricky Yang, for a 1-2 win-loss card in Group A.

The semifinals will be a race-to-11 knockout affair. The semis winners then play for the title and the $50,000 championship prize.

The top 16 players of the Guinness Tour will also qualify for the 2007 WPA World 9-Ball Championship in Manila (on Nov. 2 to 11).

The Guinness 9-ball Tour is sanctioned by the Asian Pocket Billiard Union (APBU) and organized by OSEN Star Sports Event Management Group (OSEG).

Abanilos Bernardino, Contributor

PICTURE PERFECT: Philippine Women's Volleyball Team Captain Ara Galang poses for photographers as she arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 in Pasay City yesterday after her team won a tie-breaker in the Asian Championship Qualifying Tournament in Bangkok, Thailand. Galang and her teammates are expected to leave for Japan on Tuesday for the Asian Championship proper. | Photo by Jay Ganzon

Gabica takes crack at Brunei 9-ball tilt

GABICA

DONA MARIO GABICA World gold medalist (amateur division) and double world champion Ronato Alcano will carry the country's colors in the Guinness 9-Ball Invitational Cup 2007 from Sept. 7-9 at the Indoor Stadium in Brunei.

The 35-year-old Gabica and Alcano will leave the country on Sept. 6 for the annual event featuring some of the world's best cue men.

"I will try my best to bring home to our country just like what I did in last year's Asiad," said Gabica in Filipino. Gabica, a member of Bagay Promotion, is aiming to duplicate his victory in the 2007 Cobo 9-Ball Challenge.

The tournament offers $10,000 to the champion.

Other cue artists invited include Taiwanese Wu Chia-ching and Chang Jung-ling, Malaysian Ibrahim Ibrahim, Indonesian Ricky Yang alike, Singaporeans Bernard Tay and Dennisanne Luong, Chi Dung, Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Roach deputies find Cebu gym unsafe

By Recah Trinidad

ROACH

LOS ANGELES — THERE WAS NO EVIDENT alarm but reports that Manny Pacquiao has gone down early (in the yesterday wee hours of the Pesos Cord) gym have wrecked why the Filipino boxing superstar should take unnecessary risks in training, at home for his monumental rematch against Mexico Marco Antonio Barrera on Oct. 6.

Pacquiao was forced to skip opening on Friday after being downed by the flu virus, but he should be back on the road Monday, according to trainer Freddie Roach.

Roach on Tuesday threatened to halt Pacquiao's training stint in Cebu City due to the failure of gym managers to control luminal operations.

Although Roach had earlier admitted they were already a week behind schedule, the famous trainer warned media men there should be no problem despite the latest blitz.

But Ola Afolabi, a Roach deputy who was tipped to take over as Pacquiao's conditioning coach, yesterday told the Inquirer there's always the danger of new problems cropping up.

"First, there was the mosquito (virus) now the flu, this is the reason I said Manny should be here instead of there," Afolabi, a former welterweight pro, explained.

One of Pacquiao's two Mexican sparmates has reportedly also contracted the flu virus, said to be prevalent in the Cebu area.

"The weather here may be terrible but now, but it's at least consistent, unlike out there," he added.

Eric Morel, another Roach deputy was also sent yesterday but he earlier said it was ridiculous that Pacquiao continued to take risks training in the Philippines when it has been proven that Wild Card was perfect for him.

Now Filipino trainers have, who requested anonymity, agreed with the observations of Roach's two deputies, adding they would not be surprised if Pacquiao returns here earlier than the original Sept. 22 schedule.

Actually, Roach hinted the other day that Pacquiao, an indefatigable hard worker, could be a little pissed to condescending.

But although Roach would not say how many hours they had squandered with Pacquiao's illness, the early development cannot escape the Barrera camp where everything is supposed to be going smoothly.

"Manny could be walked four or five days at most," Afolabi said.

However, the surgy former pro from Nigeria said Pacquiao should be able to catch up and "he would be OK if he misses back here early."

DLSZ, CKS College notch victory No. 3

DE LA SALLE ZOBEL AND Chiang Kai Shek College roared their respective opponents yesterday to stay on top with their third straight wins in the 2007 Philippine Junior Volleyball tournament at the SSC gym.

Miriam College's last season's stalwart and junior champion, also second-half assignments yesterday.

DLSZ got 20 points each from Alex Pisabel Trinidad, Princess Maria Trinidad and Katrina Gustro to hand St. Francis of Assisi College its second loss in as many games, 7-20-15.

Karen Bernice Celestino notched 27 markers to power CKSC past St. Stephen's High School, 7-2-16.

Miriam's collegiate team debuted with a 11-17 victory over 19-20 while its juniors squad bucked the pro-SC. Scholastica's College-bound to prevail, 15-12, in the last game.

The junior MC Kaipannens, who had 12 points apiece from Pennie Mesiere and Patricia Garcia, occupy third place at 2-1.

Mighty Filter Kings win

THE MIGHTY FILTER KINGS conquered Bulacan All-Star right from the start en route to an 85-63 rout during the Balacan-Team Foundation Day at the BSU gym in Bulacan recently.

BSU Terrence Ting, coming from the outside and Dexter Lee, Chalk Ramirez and Emmanuel Ferrer, pelian providing the needed firepower inside the paint, the Mighty Filter Kings practically decided the game early in the first half to they built a 21-point edge.

The red-hot Ting finished in a game-high 20 points while Lee and Evangelista chipped in 11 points each.

The exhibition match was organized by BSU and supported by Mighty Sports Association.

Former UMAP stars Jesse Alabanza of Arenac and Edrick Perez of UP also did their share for Mighty.

Former PBL player and Jose Rizal University star Manny Siguyo paced BSU with 16.

Martinez loses, settles for 4th

JAN Benitez displays his trophy after winning both the KDK junior and the Formula 125 junior's Open in the Indonesian leg of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship.

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER Rolly Martinez yielded to Russian Grandmaster Vladimir Bernukhov in the ninth round and settled for fourth place in the 37th International Chess Festival in Rome, Italy, yesterday.

Martinez lost after 46 moves of the Nimzo-Indian Defense and was stuck at 6.5 points, dropping into a tie for 3rd to 8th players with GM Vladimir Epishin of Russia, GM Sergei Tiviakov (Netherlands), Jacob Aagaard (Scotland) and GM Alberto David (Luxembourg).

If any consolation, the Milan-based Mastero got his first GM result and 6000 euros.

Bernukhov took the title and also 12,000 euros first prize with 7 to edge out Croatian GM Mato Cebalo in the tie-breaks, 46.5-44.5 points. They rolled 7.5 points apiece in nine outings.

Epishin, who drew with German GM Igor Khmelnik, took third with a better tie break of 40 points than Martinez's 37.

Another Filipino entry, IM Roland Salvador, drew with IM Sandro Neves Baquero of Ecuador to finished with 5.5 points along with 16 others in the event that drew 210 players.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Benitez captures two Asian Karting crowns

JAKARTA—JAN BENITEZ of Jet Racing bagged two titles in the third leg of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship recently at the Ancol International Circuit here.

The 12-year-old Bonita, a Grade 6 student of Xavier School, topped both the KDK Junior and the Formula 125 Juniors down against veteran Malaysian Mitchell Gilbert and Indonesian pilot and reigning Asian Juniors champion Rio Haryanto.

The management and strategy proved to be the key factor to the victories.

Jet Racing Team coach Ilham Gunjin's decision to use a new set of tires in the Pre-Final moment one to be proved.

The gamble paid off as Jan used his tiny in front to gain the pole position for the Final race, conquered to Gilbert who chipped to 1-Hit using some on tires.

Gilbert checked in second in the KDK Junior division with Philippine boy John Tesalina and Jet Racing teammate Vessar John Sofia distributing in third and fourth.

The Philippines made it a 1,2,3 finish in the Formula 125 Juniors Open with Tesalina and John finishing behind Benitez.

SPORTSWATCH

RP snares silver gold in Kuala Lumpur

KUALA LUMPUR — LED BY BRIDGEMATES, THE PHILIPPINES added another gold to its collection in the 15th Southeast Asian Shooting Association championships recently by taking the silver-medal event at the Subang Range here. The Filipinos, also including Patricio Bermudez and Gabriel Ting, scored a total of 1,123 points to top Malaysia by two and whip Thailand by 19.

Ocean Fresh Lyceum sweeps first round

OCEAN FRESH LYCEUM LEADED ON THE CLUTCH SHOOTING OF CHICO Lacerte and Edmon Daniel to top Polytrastic Industrial Corporation, 74-70, and ship culminate in the 2007 PCAA second conference commencement cage basketball tournament at Rizal private gym. Ocean Fresh will coach Bremar Dalmao from UNP 4-98, Rudy Lopez, Dindino Calipiness and Dion's Light Boy.

Asian Clay Shooting tourney fires off Oct. 25

READY TO SHOOT: Officials and participants of the 2007 Asian Clay Shooting Championship gather before the tournament. From left are Amy Villarama, clay shooter Raul Arambulo; Gary Correos, Andrew Robbins, Jolina Elumba and clay shooter John Wong and Ron Carag.

THE COUNTRY'S FINEST SHOOTERS are vying for a chance to represent Asia's return of the crop when the 2007 Asian Clay Shooting Championship fires off on Oct. 25 at the Manila PNP Clay Target Shooting Range in Bocaue, Municipality of Cebu.

Gay Gomez, chair of the Organizing Committee said 10 countries have confirmed their participation in the event which will run until Oct. 30.

Apart from the Philippines, India, Japan, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Burma and other Southeast Asian countries will also be competing in the event which the Philippines last hosted in 2000 in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

"This is indeed a big honor for us to be chosen as host of this tournament," said Gomez, also the treasurer of the Philippine National Shooting Association. "Not only because we have world class shooters, but because we also have a modern facility in Municipality that can compare with the best in Asia."

The Philippines will have 14 entries at the meet, led by the trio of Olympian Jethro Dionisio, Eric Ang and Raul Parcon Arambulo.

Events on tap in the tournament are trap, double trap and skeet.

Andrew Robbins, co-chair of the Organizing Committee, said one of the participants in the Inaugural tournament is the PSSA in cooperation with Shells Marketing, said Filipino shooters will do their best to take their share of gold medals.

Shells Marketing president Aely Villanueva said prospective sponsors can still sign up. For inquiries, contact 895-6520.

Ardina shoots 69; wows Europe Tour pros

DOTTIE ARDINA PUT IN A SOLID round that impressed the pros on the Ladies European Tour as she came away with a bogey-free two-under 69 to lead American Iris Lindstrom by four at the start of the Finnair Masters at the Helsinki Golf Club in Helsinki, Finland Friday.

Ardina, a longshot gunning in a **ladies pro circuit, knocked down** birdies on Nos. 3 and 17 while owning pars in three times that she went out of regulation for a 33-36 card that put the youngest player in **the field to joint 11th with England's** Felicity Johnson.

It was indeed an impressive start by the 17-year-old Ardina, considering that she was coming off a forgettable fourth to last finish in last week's BMW Masters in Norway the first of two fixes **to** four **events she was invited to play.**

"The pros were really amazed of her swing, power and poise," said outing coach Ciaran Cassi in Filipino. "We're 15-year-old, they said she's sure **to make it big in the future."**

With her solid start, Ardina is on track to make the 54-hole cut and rational for top honors against the circuit's veteran campaigners in the 54-hole tournament.

They include Lindstrom, who equaled her best ever score on the tour—a six-under par 65 at the tournament where she posted a season best 26th of tied for third in 2005.

Lindstrom is one stroke ahead of Sweden's Ros Gretzius, Germany's Martina Eberl and defending champion Virginie Lagoutte-Clement of France, who all shot 66s. English **teenager Ryan Hinkens posted a** four-under 67 for fifth.

From Europe, Ardina will fly to the US to pursue a study grant from ICTSI at the Pendleton Academy in Florida where she will be joined by Cyra Rodriguez, Mia Piccio and Hazel Pupa.

LASCUÑA Victory wrister-night

Mikee's SEAG wish list

IN HUDDLE

Betty Cuña

TWO TEAMS from the Philippines are currently in Brunei participating in the Brunei Cup, previously known as the Sultan's Cup.

Using the tournament as a tune-up for the 2007-2008 PBA season, the Sta. Lucia Realtors have swept all their games so far, beating the Australians, the New Zealanders of Singapore, 1C of Korea, which has two Americans imports, and Hai Sour Toronto 80.

The Realtors guaranteed **semifinal** slot after the Realtors drubbed them in overtime Friday night, earning a ticket to the knockout semifinal round.

A few hours before the game against **Jordan, I asked** SLR governor and team manager Roddy Recontuda, who refused his team in Brunei, if we should be ready to roll out the red carpet and welcome them with a ticket tape parade upon their return.

"Malaya pa. Although we've won all our games so far and we're the only team that has defeated the Koreans, I'm worried about the Australians, who are very solid. They have a 6-11 and a 6-10 player. Mkol ako ay match-up sa dalin, wala pa naman si Billy [Williams]," Recontuda said, hours before the game against Jordan.

* * *

Pitt Harbour Cruise-SEABe Brunei t-shirt will serve as a tryout to determine which players deserve to be in the national team.

"We could have included imports in the team but that will defeat the purpose," said RP team manager Mikee Romero, who hopes to be able to send the nationals to at least three more overseas tournaments for tune-up before the SEA Games.

Mikee said he has his eyes only **for the national team and it is a** long one.

Here it is in no particular order: Benjo Mejia, Jimmy Castro, Jessel Ramfrez, Chad Alonzo, Alan Salangsang, Ato Mariano, Chonatan Galindez, Dennis Ilao, Erick Rodriguez, Jay Chan, Gabe Norwood, Jerry Enot, Rico Maierhofer, Peng Escobal," hopefully no one borrow PBA players like Kendel de Guzman, Arwind Santos, Wesmo Arboleda, and Marvin Cruz."

"We need a strong 12-man team that's fast, can shoot and is physical on defense," said Mikee.

* * *

I'm not sure if the PBA board will be ready with a choice after the meeting in Macau, China this September, but PBA chairman Tony Chan said the selection of a commissioner will be topmost in the agenda when the governors convene for the very first time since the league's inception.

The board will most likely also study the merits of running the league into a corporation, as recommended by past chair Ricky Vargas of Talk 'N Text.

If this happens, the PBA will hire a president or CEO, as well as a commissioner which, to me is a good idea, since there will be check and balance and an umpire entity will have absolute power over the league.

I tried to call Ricky to inquire about the pros and cons of turning the league into a corporation, but as of yesterday, he still has not returned my call. The Talk 'N Text governor has just returned from a two-week business trip to the United States.

The next time I see him for the post-of PBA commissioner last apparently hasn't passed down to three. Lately, I've been hearing only three names being mentioned and seriously considered for the position.

Lascuña a title threat again in Brunei golf

DOMED BY HIS OWN CONFIDENCE LAST week, Antonio Lascuña might just become another Filipino winner of the Asian Tour today.

Lascuña shot a bogey-free five-under par 66 again yesterday and charged into contention for his first-ever Asian Tour title after three rounds of the Brunei Open at the Empire Hotel Country Club course in Brunei.

After hitting the front on two under, the un-flappable Filipino chipped in for birdie on 16, and birdied both the par-5 holes on the inward nine from 20-foot five feet, respectively, to finish with an 11-under par aggregate of 202 for 54-holes like Lu Wei-chi of Taiwan.

Lascuña and Lu, who also shot a 66, trailed Adam Le Vesconte of Australia, the former Philippine Open champion, by four strokes.

Le Vesconte birdied two of his last three holes for a 66 and a 198 aggregate.

Antonio Macaraeg, winner of last week's Brunei Open over Lascuña and Scotland's Simon Dyson, slid to a share of 22nd after a 72.

Jeeic Bagacina, last year's Asian Tour Rookie of the Year, fell to a tie for 39th after a 74 with Mars Pacay who carded a 70.

"My concentration was good and I drove the ball solidly again," said Lascuña. "I'm enjoying my golf and that's what I plan to do tomorrow. I feel comfortable on this course as my home course, Manila Southwoods, is also a link Nicklaus design."

"I don't want to start thinking of winning. All I want to do is to earn my Asian Tour card by remaining inside the top-60 of the 2008 Order of Merit."

On a cut-lined day, Le Vesconte, who led by three at the halfway stage after shooting a pair of 65s, entered his opening 30 holes before finally nailing his first birdie on the 13th.

With the closing pack closing in on him, he clinched a 25-foot birdie putt at the par-three 16th before rolling in an eight-footer on the last to boost his lead.

It will be the second week in succession that the Aussie will play in the final group: At the Icknield or Johor Open in Malaysia, he fired an one-late day to finish tied for 30th.

Le Vesconte will be eager to go all the way and add this title to his lone triumph at the 2005 BP Open. Aung Paraphrase

Leading third round scores

T18—Adam Le Vesconte (AUS) 65-65-68

T22—Tony Lascuña (PHI) 72-66-66, Lu Wei-chi (TPE) 66-66-70

T26—Gavin Wright (AUS) 69-69-70

T30—Garry Hall (ASU) 72-69-66, Scott Barr (ASU) 71-68-67

T35—Scott Strohlein (USA) 71-71-68, Pannarat Thanasin (THE) 67-70-72, Wang Su-dong (TPE) 75-69-71, Gary Harnett (USA) 67-68-72, Hiroto Ikeda (JPN) (68-68-72)

T39—Andrew Lancaster (GER) 74-68-68, Anthony Kang (USA) 69-69-70, Mardan Mamat (SIN) 69-71-68, Jbdan Caminada (ITA) 71-68-71, Mathew Goggin (AUS) 68-71-71, Matthew Millar (AUS) 69-73-68, Daniel Gaunt (AUS) 71-68-71

LASCUÑA Victory wrister-night

Lions' Menor collars Anta plum

WITH SIX SEEK DOWNED 120-100, 67-66, the other day to formally clinch the No. 1 spot in the Final Four, one of the players who delivered solid numbers for the Red Lions was third-year forward Ogie Menor.

Menor scored 21 points, including a layup that kept the Red Lions ahead, 82-77, while adding six rebounds and three assists.

For his heads-up play last Friday, Menor earned recognition as the NCAA Press Corps-Asian Hunter of the Week.

Lions Beda coach Franklin Lim was off praises for his versatile forward, who also had 13 points and four assists in a 96-79 win opposite Jerpersual Strip last Wednesday.

"He really gave us a big lift. With Sweet Lalkjamall out, Ogie was one of the players who really stepped up. He's really capable of leading this team," said Lim.

The Red Lions' win against the Knights assured them of the No. 1 spot in the semifinals as they finished the elimination phase with an 11-1 win-loss record.

Naascu tilt Final Four under way

[illegible] (Dunlop San Juniper)
11 (A)—(M) 6 AM (SS)
12:30 p.m.—(J) vs San Sebastian Castle (Sw)

SIT AMS UNIVERSITY OF MANILA, THE top two qualifiers after the elimination round, say to arrange a title showdown when they clash with squares twice today to the Final Four of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the Tandang gym.

The 8:30 Olympians tangle with the San Sebastian Castor Bay Cats in the main game at 12:30 p.m. after the 11 a.m. clash between the UM Hawks and the defending champion AMA Titans.

SIT and UM are not only are heavily favored but both are also armed with a twice-to-beat advantage as the top two seeds

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2007

Djokovic outlasts Stepanek in 'marathon'

Favorites Nadal, Henin breeze through; Safin out

NEW YORK—THIRD-SEEDED Novak Djokovic outlasted Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (2), Friday, capping in the second-longest US Open singles match in the fifth-set tiebreak era.

"I am totally exhausted. No energy," Djokovic said. "I smell my shoes—they are on today."

They played 4:21 games, 350 points and played 4 hours, 44 minutes, during several standing ovations along the way.

"I'm doing fine," Stepanek said, "not I lose."

It was another super day for Djokovic's Serbia, too, with No. 1 Ana Ivanovic and No. 3 Ana Jovanovic reaching the women's fourth round.

Another Serb, Janko Tipsarevic, though, stopped because of an injured rib muscle while losing, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5, against No. 2 Rafael Nadal.

Bothersome knees

The Spaniard's bothersome knees were not a problem in the second round the way they were in the first.

"I'm now 100 percent yet but so much better," Nadal said. "I play better, too. I feel more comfortable."

Ivanovic earned another shot at Venus Williams, who beat her in the Wimbledon semifinals en route to the title. Two-time US Open champion Williams was never really challenged Friday night in a 6-1, 6-2 victory over No. 23 Alona Bondarenko.

Serena Williams took a while to find her rhythm before downing No. 27 Petra Cetkovska of Russia, 6-4, 7-6 (4). The two-time Open champion clinched it on her fourth match point in the tiebreaker.

Harry Potter

Serena Williams was bothered by the chair umpire's insistence that she put away a little notebook with handwritten reminders.

"I was like, 'Well, it's not like I'm Harry Potter, and my dad can magically give me notes to read,'" she said. "It's something that I write myself. Just little things."

Her opponent will be Wimbledon runner-up Sharon Bartoli, while No. 1 Justine Henin next plays No. 15 Dinara Safina, who beat Aleksandra Wozniak of the United States, 6-4, 6-3.

Safina's older brother, the 25th-seeded Marat Safin, didn't put up much of a fight in a 6-3, 6-3 loss to Slovenia Wozniak. Safin then was ranked 43rd (No. 1) when he won the 2000 US Open.

Erring genius, frazzled Fish

"Even the geniuses make mistakes," Safin said.

American Mardy Fish, 3rd No. 8 Tommy Robredo 4-1 in the fifth set before dropping the last five games and the match, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (7), 6-4.

Fish's explanation?

"I froze," he said.

Henin needed only 56 minutes to crush another qualifier, Ekaterina Makarova of Russia, 6-0, 6-2.

Along with Safin, another former champion, 2003 winner Lleyton Hewitt, also lost. The Australian was upset by 16th-seeded Agustin Calleri, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. AP

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A way out of poverty, according to 'Mr. John'

A new book unveils taipan John Gokongwei's struggles and triumphs

YET another book on Gokongwei's life

By Amy R. Remo

IT IS NEVERTHELESS a CERTAIN CALL FOR an old man not to let for Gain or for ruse.

Taipan John Gokongwei Jr. humbly said the book written about his life and legacy was meant to "share my story to the hope that I may inspire even a single person to become an entrepreneur."

His book, the "John L. Gokongwei Jr.: The Path of Entrepreneurship" written by history de Manila University's Dr. Meriam A. Khanner, tells the "Unless to rags-to-riches" story of the taipan.

In the book launching at the Ateneo hold Wednesday, Gokongwei himself admitted that entrepreneurship was not an easy path to take.

"You are born to start somewhere, however small, however difficult," he said in his speech.

Gokongwei said he believes that entrepreneurship is a way out of poverty.

Teaching values

Published by the Ateneo de Manila University's press, the book, according to him, encourages Filipinos to be fearless, push the limits, be resilient and take calculated risks.

It likewise teaches readers the values of frugality, tenacity and hard work.

According to the taipan, a budding entrepreneur should ask four questions before deciding whether to venture into a business.

"Is there a market? Do I have enough capital? Can I compete? And can I sleep at night?" he told the audience.

"You should never lose sleep over business risks," he said.

These are just among the numerous lessons that can be gleaned from the book, as he shares "what I've gone through since then till years ago" from being a 13-year-old peddler of peanuts and other goods to be one of Asia's most successful businessmen to-date.

"Being an entrepreneur then and now aren't that different. We're still fighting it out with the biggest multinational corporations," he said.

He noted that he, himself, has been fighting with the giants when he put up Great Taste, Cebu Pacific and Jon Cylinder.

"Filipino entrepreneurs are braver, stronger and bolder," he proudly said.

Fulfilled

With the book, Gokongwei says he already feels fulfilled.

As he light-heartedly told the audience, "a man fulfills his role in the world by doing three things: plant a tree, have a son and write a book."

For her part, author Khanner learned a happy sigh of relief and said guests at the launching that her two-year journey with the taipan had finally reached its finale.

Khanner is the director for the Doctor of Business Administration Program of the School of Business and Government at the Ateneo de Davao University.

Eternal debt

Calling herself "Ms. John's story teller," Khanner said she owes an eternal debt to Gokongwei for allowing her to write her "chosen book."

She also said she would miss the quiet hours with Mr. John and Mrs. Elizabeth, the wonderful someone mom as well as the Fun.

"This chapter ties on his being young at heart," she said.

Despite encountering few difficulties in writing the book, Khanner said it was comedy and passion that kept her going.

Two brands

She likewise credited her editors and countless panels of reviewers for helping her with the book.

"This is not just a Gokongwei book, but also an Ateneo book. It carries two trademarks of two big brands," she added.

a story on

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Batangas' loss is Apayao's gain/B3

IN THIS ISSUE

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The business of Mt. Pinatubo's sand

Text and photos
by Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—It's the chilly coolness of making figurines, Ernesto Gutabon does not lose sense of an irony.

Sand, which this 58-year-old craftsman blends with resin, once cities from sun, evokes memories of a disaster and the opportunities it opens to him.

"The blessings have been many. I have so much to thank for. What saddens me is that I still haven't been able to go back to my place," Gutabon says.

Homesick is him is still Sto. Tomas, Pampanga, even if he has been away from it for 16 years.

The eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo in June 1991 forced Gutabon and other residents to leave. But returning was not possible.

The issue dealt with another enemy, which was no less treacherous like the explosions. Lahar was the name they learned to call it and the only signal for its coming was strong rains.

In October 1991, heavy rains washed down the lahar or volcanic debris from the slopes, burying the town further.

Geologists estimated that the eruption spewed out six cubic kilometers or about 600 million truckloads of pyroclastic materials, which is a mix of molten and other gasses, ash, mud, pumice stones and largely, sand.

That's how abundant sand is in Pampanga, Gutabon said flatly. The misfortune, or fortune, of Pampanga is that it tends to get most of that mineral.

Of the eight river systems where lahar flows during the rainy season, the most active so far is the Bong-Pulyeon River. It runs through Porac, Floridablanca, Bacolor, Sto. Rita and Lubao before it finally empties into the Manila Bay.

"Mong Eurabel ing Aeba (There's so much sand)," Gutabon says.

This former jeepney driver found good use for it, as other enterprising Kapampangan did.

Sand is what he uses to make figurines, trophies, plaques, knick-knacks and other items clients want him to fashion out of it.

Crafts

Dhenjoyng Ilustrado Crafts, the business that Gutabon and his wife Lauvirginia started in October 1991 while still in the Metropolis evacuation center, has done well.

Through it, they have sent all their seven children to college and provided capital for their children's bakery, canteen and mini-grocery businesses.

It has employed a steady team of 15 workers, helping out their families as well. The business helps at least eight former prisoners build their lives anew by tapping them as volunteers.

Gutabon takes pride in the fact that retail giant Shoemart has been carrying their products for three years now. Less than a dozen exporters sell their products.

These are what the couple has earned out of the P300,000 capital from the Department of Trade and Industry: P300,000 worth of equipment from the Social Action Center of Pampanga and training from the Department of Science and Technology.

Gardens

The village of Bulaon in Mabalacat town, where Mount Iraya fell, was buried by Mt. Pinatubo's sand.

PLANCE stones are taken from the river and sieved from sand.

WAREHOUSE and painting the figurines before packing them.

PLANT pots and gas lamps are made out of pumice stones

Jacob, 58, also lost his job as utility man when the United States military decided to close the Clark Air Base in the same year that the Pinatubo disaster raged hard.

He began anew by going full-time in his hobby of bonsai making. He put in a local touch by carving "volcanic pots" from out of pumice stones.

These are whitish, lightweight rocks. If pulverized, they produce fine and white sand. Jacob uses it as layer to the mountain soil on which he grows his bonsai.

These have become his canvas in layers also deep by his garden along the Dolores section of the MacArthur Highway.

Almost 20 bonsai gardens line this sand-filled stretch.

Jacob's neighbor, Evelia Cuevas, sculpts elephants, carabaos or lamps out of pumice stones.

Cuevas, 37, calls his works "garden pieces."

Parts

Zenaida Santiago, 46, likes it when it rains. The sand along the Bamban-Iacobin River is replenished, giving more reasons for hauliers to come and buy.

Like some 50 other owners in

THE BUSINESS 16

CALICOAN Island is envisioned to become the Ayia Napa of Visayas

Big resort to rise on Calicoan Island

By Vea S. Lalaro
Inquirer Visayas

GUIUAN, EASTERN SAMAR—A MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR BEACH resort would soon rise on Calicoan Island, which is envisioned as the surfing capital in Eastern Visayas.

Tim Ebrahim, American resort developer and director of the Calicoan Island Resort Development Corp. (CIRDC), said the project would cost around $100 million.

Ebrahim said construction work on the resort would start in January next year and would take over two years to finish.

CIRDC's proposed 13-hectare resort would be located at the middle beach of the 1,400-hectare Calicoan Island, he said.

Douglas Hannay, the architect who designed the project, said the eight-story hotel would be shaped like a pyramid and would have outdoor balconies.

Barnacy said the project would be a series of complexes with the condominium hotel as the main complex.

Aside from the condominium hotel, the resort would also have 20 private villas and a two-hectare swimming pool complex, he said.

The other features would include a health spa with sauna components, medical facility for cosmetic surgery, mini-clinic, boutiques, and a sports complex.

Ebrahim said the investors of their Philippine corporation included himself and a few Europeans.

Lawyer Ifranel Go, owner of the land to be occupied by CIRDC's resort hotel, said a group of Korean investors would also set up a 500-room luxury hotel at the south beach of Calicoan Island.

Go also explained that his company does not have any involvement in the American and Korean business ventures, except to provide the site for the projects.

"We develop land and then find the people that do the materials," Go said.

Victor Domingo, presidential assistant for Eastern Visayas, said the government would be setting up infrastructure requirements for the upcoming resorts, such as a good airport, roads, power and water.

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, some Korean businessmen, local businessmen and other government officials attended the project's launching held recently.

THE LONG beachfront of the resort complex

West Visayas' small businesses play the packaging game

By Ms. Elvira Labrete
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—SMALL BUSINESSES in Western Visayas have found out that well-designed food labels and packages are the way to beat the more established players in the industry.

Demands for food labels and appropriate packaging have increased in the last two years after retail-ups in the "pasalubong" food and gifts businesses have realized that they can level the playing field by promoting their products in more appealing ways.

Imelda Sherwin Alda Cruzmedia, a supplier of "tocino" and other preserved meat products in Iloilo City, like never thought of anything into business until she saw the food label, "Alda's Kitchen," designed for her by the Kanowangan Design and Packaging Center.

Kanowangan is owned by Tesda or Kanowangan (Bridge to Progress), a private organization that is into micro lending to help families establish small businesses in the countryside. Based in Iloilo, Tesda has branches in Leyte and Mindanao but it is in the Visayas where it has seen reach and climax.

DIFFERENT products with packages designed by Tesda via Kanowangan Inc.

"We run the center like a business because we also want to help small entrepreneurs improve their products. But many of our clients are Tesda members who run small retail or sari-sari store selling packaging oil, soy sauce, sugar and other basic food items repacked in sachets," said Amboy.

The center also trains entrepreneurs to design their labels and establish their identity in the market. It has two artists who create suitable labels and packaging.

Among the eye-catching designs created by Kanowangan are the packages for Badiangan ginger tea and Bovacan cloth lanterns.

The ginger tea label was done in yellow and purple backdrop with deep yellow carats and screaming cup of ginger tea. Done of all the metallic plastic, it stands out.

The lantern boxes are done in pastels with blossoms of hibiscus for a tropical feel.

The packaging center was established by the Kanowangan through the technical assistance from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and a grant from "Operacional Española," or the "Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperacion" of Spain, which financed the purchase of machines and some laboratory equipment.

Reaching out

Rowena Gelongo, the acting regional director of DOST in Western Visayas, said Kanowangan reaches out to micro and small businesses that otherwise cannot be reached by the DOST. The latter can be focused on small and medium businesses that

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Food products

The Kanowangan design and packaging center, located at Lapaz, La Paz district, has endorsed 322 food businesses and 23 nonfood businesses since last year.

The food products range from sweets like "banik," "bangulibot" and "bamporan" to spiced vinegar, "suwan" and mango tarts. The nonfood items include candles, curtains, shawls, slippers, bed/sofa soups and Boracay cloth lanterns, among others.

Kanowangan's Reynaldo Ambon said the center caters to Tesda's clients and other entrepreneurs who may want to use the packaging equipment like hand sealers, shrink, vacuum and repacking machines with minimal costs.

PACKAGING machines at TESDA Iloilo covers small businesses.

Batangas' loss is Apayao's gain

By Denise Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—The sleeping hills of Conner town in Apayao are showing promises of becoming North Luzon's producer of durian, lanzones and coffee that can corner the region's lucrative markets and highway stores.

A 24-hectare farm owned by lawyer Otteyo, a native of Cainta, Batangas, has proven that given enough financial, technical and market support, the town can become an alternate source of the three crops that base trade flows, Batangas and Laguna famous.

Ortega has led Conner's change of including the production of durian, lanzones and rambutan in the town's generally coarse lands cultivated primarily devoted to cassa production.

Conner is in Apayao's southernmost portion and sandwiched between Abra and Cagayan. It has a land area of 93,289.92 hectares classified as mountains and rolling hills and patches of riverine flat lands.

Ortega migrated to Conner in 1950 after finishing high school at the United Luzon State University (UCLU) in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Showcase

He says that his uncle's lot, which he expanded through the years to become what it is today—a showcase of Conner's ability to produce durian, lanzones, rambutan, cacao and coffee fruits.

Ortega says he is a farmer by nature. In fact, he failed to earn a college degree, same to 2003 when he got his Bachelor of Science degree in

biology degree from the Apayao State College through the Department of Tertiary Education and Accreditation Program (Deap).

Ortega was amazed over Conner's natural ability to produce so much. He decided to give durianas a try in 1985, he brought with him 20 banyuos seeds from Batangas.

The plants grew robustly in his uncle's lot. He then expanded his lanzones farm.

In 1990, he placed rambutan. Durian followed in 2000.

"It took my farmers' acumen in 1988 in Cebu since which I attended trade on learn about durian production," he says.

Favorable results

His initial crops yielded favorable results. The rest was history.

Ortega's tenure as councilor for more than 6 years did not dampen his love for the farm.

He continued planting and reaped much from it. His income was used to send his eight children to school.

Today, Ortega rakes on as much as his love that continues to reap dividends from the sale of the three fruits.

His farm produce has supplied markets in Isabela, Cagayan and Apayao.

Ortega says he produces an annual average of 14 tons of lanzones, five tons of rambutan and close to 200 kilograms of durian. He has roots have protected the market of Tuguegarao City, acknowledged as the center of industrial and commercial center in Cagayan Valley.

Selling his crops at an average retail price of P40 a kg for lanzones, P25 a kg for rambutan, and P60 a kg for durian, Ortega easily manages his annual production cost of P200,000, which, he says, included the salaries for 10 workers.

Harvest time comes only in September and October, he says.

Contract growing

Buyers contract Ortega's fruits during the province's "Harvest Festival" in October and next year, he says he has entered into contract growing to supply 10 tons of lanzones immediately accompany engaged in wholesale trade of fruits.

Ortega says though that in the case of durian, more time is needed to make it a reasonable enterprise.

He says he has durian plantation began to bear fruits only in 2003 and his produce has yet to be noticed by wholesalers and companies.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF C&P HOMES, INC.

All holders of shares of common stock of C&P Homes, Inc. (respectively, the "Shareholders" and "C&P") are hereby notified that on August 10, 2007, Vista Land & Lifescapes, Inc. ("Vista") filed a Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. Vista, which is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, intends to acquire up to 5,464,426 common shares of C&P.

The consideration for the acquisition of the common shares of C&P to be tendered (the "Subject Shares") is one (1) common share in Vista (the "Vista Shares") for every one (1) share in C&P.

The Tender Offer shall commence on August 21, 2007, and end at 3:00 p.m. on September 18, 2007 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Subject Shares are intended to be crossed on the PSE on September 21, 2007 (the "Cross Date") subject to PSE approval.

Vista intends to issue the Vista Shares as payment for the tendered and accepted Subject Shares on September 24, 2007, assuming the C&P shares are crossed on the Cross Date. The Vista Shares will be issued in scripless form by lodgment with the PDTC.

Tendering Shareholders who hold stock certificates ("Scrip Shareholders") should submit within the Tender Offer Period their duly endorsed stock certificates, the duly accomplished Application and the following supporting documents:

For Corporate Shareholders

1. Certified true copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the shareholder and latest amendments thereof;

2. A notarized Secretary's Certificate substantially in the form prescribed by Vista setting forth resolutions of the tendering shareholder's Board of Directors authorizing the tender and sale of the Company's Subject Shares and designating the signatories for the purpose;

3. A duly-accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of its authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary.

4. C&P Minority Shareholders who have lost their share certificates must submit a notarized Affidavit of Loss and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for each replacement share certificate and an authorization to withhold the release of the Vista shares for a period of one (1) year.

5. C&P Minority Shareholders who transferred their shares (effective stock split) must endorse the same share certificates and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for each replacement share certificate.

For Individual Shareholders

1. One (1) valid identification card containing the photo and specimen signature of the shareholder.

2. For shareholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney substantially in the form prescribed by Vista.

3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the shareholder.

4. C&P Minority Shareholders who have lost their share certificates must submit a notarized Affidavit of Loss and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for each replacement share certificate and an authorization to withhold the release of the Vista shares for a period of one (1) year.

5. C&P Minority Shareholders submitting share certificates issued prior to December 6, 2005 (the effective date of the C&P reverse stock split) must endorse the same share certificates and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for each replacement share certificate.

Tendering Scrip Shareholders may submit their applications to ATR KimEng Securities, Inc. ("ATRKE Securities") at the following address: 17th Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Triangle, Makati City.

Defective applications (e.g., with discrepancy between the specimen signatures on file and the endorsement) must be corrected within the Tender Offer Period to avoid being rejected by Vista. Hence, Shareholders are strongly urged to submit their Application to Tender and supporting documents early to allow sufficient time to correct any deficiency. In their Application, Shareholders are also urged to indicate their telephone numbers in their respective application forms to allow ATRKE Securities to inform them immediately of any deficiency in their applications.

Tendering Shareholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") ("Scripless Shareholders") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their shares to ATRKE Securities for receipt by ATRKE Securities prior to 3:00 p.m. of September 18, 2007. ATRKE Securities shall treat the tendered common shares only as custodian.

Tendering Shareholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered shares at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a **withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by ATRKE Securities before 3:00 p.m. of September 18, 2007.**

Copies of SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by Shareholders from ATRKE Securities at their addresses stated above.

For inquiries about Vista or the Tender Offer, please call ATRKE Securities at (02) 849-8888 (Attention: Ms. Rosalie Dela Cruz) or Vista Land & Lifescapes, Inc. at (02) 857-2300 loc 109 (Attention: Ms. Jo L. Ejay).

Cleanliness, kindness behind success of Calamba City resort

By Marivic Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALAMBA, LAGUNA—TEODY ANG Meds Hinapoc, owner of Angel's Spring Private Resort, believes that their edge against the many other hot springs and swimming pools in town is the cleanliness of their place and the "kindheartedness" the place espouses.

"Guests really keep coming back," Meds shares, adding that during summers, an average of 35 guests call in for reservations for one day, sometimes or weekend.

Their clients are mostly from Laguna or Manila, but many also drive as far as Cubao, Bulacan and Quezon.

Even during the rainy season, which is considered to be the lean season for private resort businesses, Angel's Spring is still filled up with customers holding parties and reunions.

"Perhaps because of the cleanliness and its relatively low rates, than to take they come to our place," Meds adds.

Aside from the guaranteed sanitation of the surrounding pools, the owners take important precautions to ensure the safety of the guests.

The resort's caretaking, living, went through an intensive training from Red Cross, and regularly attends to every need of customers.

Risk-taker

The resort, which was opened to the public in 1998, has caretakers but it is the couple who personally manages the business for almost 10 years now.

Every month, they drive from their residence in Muntinlupa City to Laguna to check the rest house and the water supply for the pools.

When Meds retired from her work as a property manager and personnel administrator, she used all her retirement pay to the resort business.

"When I was young, I thought of working until 65 and have something (a business) afterwards and I guess old," Meds says.

Teody, on the other hand, grew up in Calamba and had relatives who were also running private resorts.

The two saw the profitability of engaging in real estate and in a business that they were already familiar with.

"I am a risk-taker," Meds admits, "but I play it safe."

She says she well-planned business and used its payback in just three years.

Bright aura

Angel's Spring started as a single resort with a two-story rest house and two swimming pools.

"We were astounded with the design," Meds says, describing the resort as "bright, and yet are really catered it to have a bright aura."

She says it was her passion to keep everything neat and orderly, a passion she learned from her previous job.

ANGEL'S Spring Private Resort in Calamba City, Laguna

OWNERS Teody and Meds Hinapoc

By 2000, the couple bought a nearby resort and converted it to Angel's Spring II.

"[It was] for expansion. Since it was adjacent [to the first one] it could be used for bigger events," Meds says.

With both Angel's Spring I and II, the resort hosts company outings, debut, weddings, student activities, graduation parties and even spiritual retreats.

Social responsibility

Living up to its angelic title, Angel's Spring is not just a business venture but also a venue to help other people.

"I believe we have a social responsibility—part of the income should go to those that need," Meds explains.

Usually during the Feast of the Our Lady of the Abandoned in San Jose, which is also Meds's hometown in Manila, the couple offers one day for the orphanage to use the resort for free.

They have sponsored a number of foundations and religious congregations such as the Sisters of Mary Immaculate, Hospicio de San Jose, Elsie Gaches Village, Awaken Home and Barney Pues.

They call this an "open house" where children can freely enjoy the swimming pools and bring home some goodies with them.

"We feel this customer before whose child was sick with cancer," Meds recalls. "When we learned about this, we allowed the family to use the resort for free to make the child happy."

Wholesome

The resort is primarily named after his couple's youngest daughter, Angel.

Aside from that, Teody himself wrote a poem, which could also be found at the resort's lyrics website, defining the business' name and vision—to be a place for soul-searching and communication with God.

To create a unique ambiance of tranquility and solace, Meds put up flowerbeds of orchids and pillars hills along the pathway to the pools.

With the couple being devout Catholic, a statue and an antique portrait of the Our Lady of the Abandoned are regular features in almost every room of the rest house.

"We've already offered the place as our means to make people happy," she says.

The couple aims to keep the place wholesome by not putting up billiard tables or other venues usually do. They also do not allow those who bring in the music.

But other than that, they never chose to disallowing sing parties at the resort.

They do not worry that business to become a venue for exploitation, concerning the various being abused in such situation.

There were instances when they had to have guests out of the resort, and last resort, regular clients because of this policy.

But Meds says they are ready to lose part of the sales but this does not stop other guests from coming in.

Teody and Meds look forward to expanding their business. However, profit becomes secondary to keeping the high standards.

"We are very much strict in keeping the place clean—physically and spiritually," Meds declares.

Most importantly, she says, "we try to make every guest feel that Angel's Spring is also his own."

ANGEL'S Swimming Pool

A way out of poverty, according to 'Mr. John'

From page B1

John Gokongwei lived the life to the fullest by going through the path of entrepreneurship," she said.

Meanwhile, Rodolfo F. Ang, dean of the John Gokongwei School of Management at the Ateneo, said the book is one more way of taking the Gokongwei-Ateneo partnership to a higher level.

The partnership "goes beyond a special 'connection' from getting when Gokongwei made a generous P200-million endowment to the undergraduate school of management, he explained.

The endowment had highlighted Gokongwei's commitment to education, seen through the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation which maintains a Technical Training Center for engineering graduates and the Children's Library, which offers free computer learning and other educational and entertainment materials to children up to 12 years old.

Aside from the Ateneo, the Gokongweis have also made donations to San Carlos University in Cebu, Xavier School, De La Salle University, Sacred Heart School and Immaculate Conception Academy.

Inspiration

With the book, Ang said Gokongwei provides inspiration to anyone who'd like to embark on that path of entrepreneurship.

"The book is more than just a biography but an effort to get inside his mind [and] understand his business strategies," Ang said.

Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J. echoed the same sentiment in saying that Gokongwei had evolved such admirable strong standards.

He added that with the book, Gokongwei's legacy will live on for the new generation he's helping to become entrepreneurs.

Working smart

"The art of being wise is the art of knowing to overlook." William James

BEING SUCCESSFUL IS NOT ABOUT how hard you work—it's about how smart you work, Michael Lebouf said. "Investing a little of yourself in everything means consulting a great deal of yourself: to nothing."

It's Lebouf's life, there's a big difference between activity and accomplishment. Activity is being busy like as Henry David Thoreau once said, "It's not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: What are [you] busy about?"

Generally speaking, there are five ways that people spend their working hours. Read the ones the following list and determine which one best describes how you spend your time:

1. Urgent—Load things first.

You've no doubt heard the saying. The squeaky wheel gets the grease. Well, that shouldn't always be the case in leadership.

As a leader, you will probably encounter a lot of "squeaky wheels" in the form of complaints or requests or suggestions from the people in your organization. Some of them will be valid and worth spending your time on them. But often, silling the squeaky wheels in your organization isn't the best use of your time.

Peter Drucker once said, "[The] person with no boss is left mostly spends it with someone who can't spare a minute."

Though it's tempting—especially if you're a people pleaser—you have to learn to discern what talents really need grease, what ones can be ignored by others and what ones will squeak no matter how much oil they have on them.

2. Unpleasant—Hard things first.

Many of us are caught this concept (also) we're young. It's the "dinner before dessert" mentality, and there can be some value in it. But just because something is hard doesn't mean it should be at the top of your to-do list.

Henry Ellsenger once joked, "Most week there can't be any crisis. My schedule is already full." As a leader, you have to constantly check your motives. If you have a strong work ethic, you may naturally want to get the harder things done first. But don't just start in on the hard stuff before determining the value of your actions. If doing something easier is a better use of your time, then do that before you tackle the difficult tasks.

3. Unscheduled—Last things first.

If you're like most leaders, you work on a day-to-day schedule. And many times your to-do list is left a little undone at the end of the day. If you have only completed eight of the 10 items on your list, the tendency is to automatically place the remaining two items at the top of your list for the following day. But that's not always the best use of your time.

As Johann Wolfgang Goethe once said, "Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least."

Chances are, if the two items you didn't finish a day earlier were on because of your list, they weren't top priorities in the first place, and probably won't be top priorities the next day either.

Before you spend time completing an unfinished task from the day before, take time to evaluate it in comparison to the other things you need to accomplish. If finishing the task is still not a top priority, place it at the bottom of your list again, and work on it after you finish the more important items.

4. Unfulfilling—Dull things first.

Of the five styles, this one is probably the most common. If you subscribe to this notion, your tendency is to want to get looking things out of the way so you can focus on what's really important.

As a result, you spend time doing the dull, mindless things, like mopping or fixing or reading e-mails first. But even though these things must be done, they are rarely the top priority.

Robert McKain said, "The reason most organizations are not achieved is that we spend our time doing second things first." Don't waste time "getting things out of the way."

Instead, get a jump start on completing your most important task first.

5. Ultimate—First things first.

Do you naturally spend time on the most important things first? Whether you do them first or second or last, they eventually have to get done for you to succeed. Commit to give your best time—right now and in the future—to your most important tasks.

Although it's admirable to be ambitious and hard working, it's never desirable to be smart working. You see, the key to becoming a more efficient leader isn't checking off all the items on your to-do list each day.

It's in forming the habit of prioritizing your time so that you are accomplishing your most important goals in an efficient manner. When you're able to do that, it won't be long before you succeed your own expectations as a leader.

(For information on John Maxwell's leadership or public leadership at seminars/workshops, please e-mail us at logistics@mail.com or call 813-2500 or 0922-8241 for Ace or Ang. For MAXIMIZE ON 6632 (Ateneo) to get daily MAX leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

The business of ...

From page B1

the village, footings get many customer stones that are sifted from the sand. When there's not much, the gets to the river to search for stones.

She said her two helpers can chose into smaller squares. Makers of denim paste come to buy these to give the fabric a stonewash effect. A truck holds P15 to P25. Her team produces 200 sacks of gravels stones a week.

The biggest business that has come out of the sand boom after Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions is the quarry industry.

In Pampanga, which is some 60 km north of Metro Manila, many people make a living out of it.

Quarry operators (companies or individuals that hold permit) own five to as much as 50 hectares of sand-rich public or private lands, sell the stones by the truckloads or cubic meter straight to construction projects or as suppliers.

Sand is used for making hollow blocks, as filling materials or for cement mixes.

Private landowners, on the other hand, get royalties.

Owners of heavy equipment, such as backhoes and loaders, also get to earn their keep. Truck owners rent out their vehicles for delivery or sporting their own hauling business, employing a set of driver and helper for every truck.

Gravel-sand owners have their hands full supplying fuel to them trucks. Dozens of road side eateries cater to drivers. Then, there are "brokers" or men who guide the buyers to the source of good sand.

Industry leaders said about 30,000 people directly benefit from sand-quarrying.

Local government-run, too, from sand taxes.

The Pampanga provincial government has collected P36.6 million in sand taxes from July 2 to Aug. 22, capital records showed.

Aside from collecting ecological taxes (ranging from P50 to P80 per truckload), towns and barangays get P40 and P60 from out of the P300 tax that the provincial government collects for every truckload.

Mechanized stripping hope of abaca farmers in Catanduanes

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—GOVERNOR Joseph C. Cua strongly believes that, apart from an aggressive abaca development program, local farmers should use mechanized stripping to double local fiber production.

This month, Cua, Fiber Industry Development Authority (FIDA) officials led by provincial fiber affairs Lorenzo Formaran, and local officials headed by Mayor Lee Rodriguez spearheaded the demonstration of the spindle machine to abaca farmers in Baco town.

In asking for the support of farmers for his program, the governor revealed that the Feds has received a grant from the Spanish government, P40 million of which would be allocated for fiscal and the Europa region for the acquisition of spindle machines.

In Catanduanes, he added, each town would be initially provided one spindle machine in an effort to maximize the province's reputation as the abaca capital of the country.

The demonstration at Barangay San Roque was an eye-opener for farmers from outlying barangays as they expressed wonder at how fast the machine stripped fiber of big quantity.

Feds officials said the spindle machine can produce 100 to 200 kilos of SI fiber every day, depending on the skill of the operator while manual stripping yields only about 30 kilos each day.

The Spanish grant would be entrusted through active abaca farmers' cooperatives in nine towns, which will have to provide a 100-square meter lot and a building, locally called "bag-cuan," to house the machine, possibly in areas near abaca plantations.

> The demonstration at Barangay San Roque was an eye-opener for farmers

The machine is a common equipment of abaca farmers in Leyte, where abaca is harvested in the day and stripped at night in the farmers' homes.

The governor also asked farmers to remove the "amorado" and other low-quality fibers producing abaca in their farmers and to replace them with "abaca" variety.

In his brief address, Cua likewise downplayed the possibility of establishing a pulp and paper mill in Catanduanes due to its high cost as well as environmentally undesirable waste products.

The activity served as the launching of the Catanduanes United Abaka Mass Program, which seeks to offer assistance to abaca farmers through disease eradication and rehabilitation activities in the light of findings that the dreaded abaca bunchy top, abaca mosaic and bract mosaic diseases have already infested 13 percent of the province's 23,670 hectares of abaca plantations cultivated by 13,431 farmers.

The project is aimed at increasing farm productivity and sustain a production rate increase of one percent and to increase the supply of abaca suckers in the province.

Specifically, 1,184.01 hectares, or five percent of the total abaca land area, will be rehabilitated involving 772 farmers.

Aside from abaca rehab and disease eradication, the other components of the project are the establishment of a one-hectare abaca nursery, technical training on spindle stripping, hands-on training on abaca observation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Government statistics show that Catanduanes produced 11,500 metric tons of abaca fibers in 2006, representing 30 percent of the country's total production and 70 percent of Bicol's harvest.

It has also the highest acreage planted to abaca at 22,284 hectares tilled by 13,333 farmers. Preston Uy arcuas, Inquirer Southern Luzon

West Visayas' small businesses play the ...

From page B1

also need assistance on packaging, labeling and marketing.

Aside from promoting the products well, packaging also protects the products from spoilage, thus lengthening its shelf life. Research should be done to come up with appropriate layers of packaging for a product.

For example, DOST assisted a young couple who are new in the business of baking banana-nut, which is a mouthwatering mixture of chocolate, flour and eggs and generously topped with bits of cashew nuts. Because of its metallic foil packaging, the banana-nut can last from four to six months while the ones wrapped in multi-colored cellophane may stay for one to two month only.

Since January there were 40 companies who asked for DOST's assistance for packaging and labeling, including nutritional analysis of their food products. Botonga expects the number to more than double by the end of the year.

Export market

Many of those who asked for DOST's help in packaging and labeling are small businesses that wanted to gain a foothold in the malls and the lucrative export market.

In these areas, their product labels should not only be unique and attractive but should also conform with the Philippine laws and standards of the export market that require disclosure of ingredients, nutritious facts and shelf life, among others.

Among those embarrassed to ask for DOST's assistance are entrepreneurs from Guimaras who sell preserves, cashew nuts, fruit juices and concentrates, dried mango slices, fruit flavored pasyo or flat cakes. Their strength is their creativity in inspiring or retaining food items by enhancing their tastes such as adding fruits and other new flavors.

They also make their presence felt in the local market with their attractive labels. Unlike in Iloilo where competition is strong among makers of delicacies, Guimaras producers tend to help each other.

"Ciere is some three years and entrepreneurs in Guimaras will outdo their conservative counterparts in Iloilo," said Cebrings.

Batangas' loss is Apayao's gain

From page B1

Dr. Rodolfo Tatamen of the Apayao State College says Ortega's accomplishments are considered a breakthrough in upland agriculture.

Tatamen says Ortega has proved that barriers, limitations and duress are adaptable to what is known as "sloping land operationalization."

Ortega was named the Magsasakang Siyentipiko (Farmer-scientist) of the "Balitan Pinoy" program, otherwise known as Farmer's Information and Technology Service (FIS) program of the Philippine Council for Agriculture Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD).

Knowledge sharing

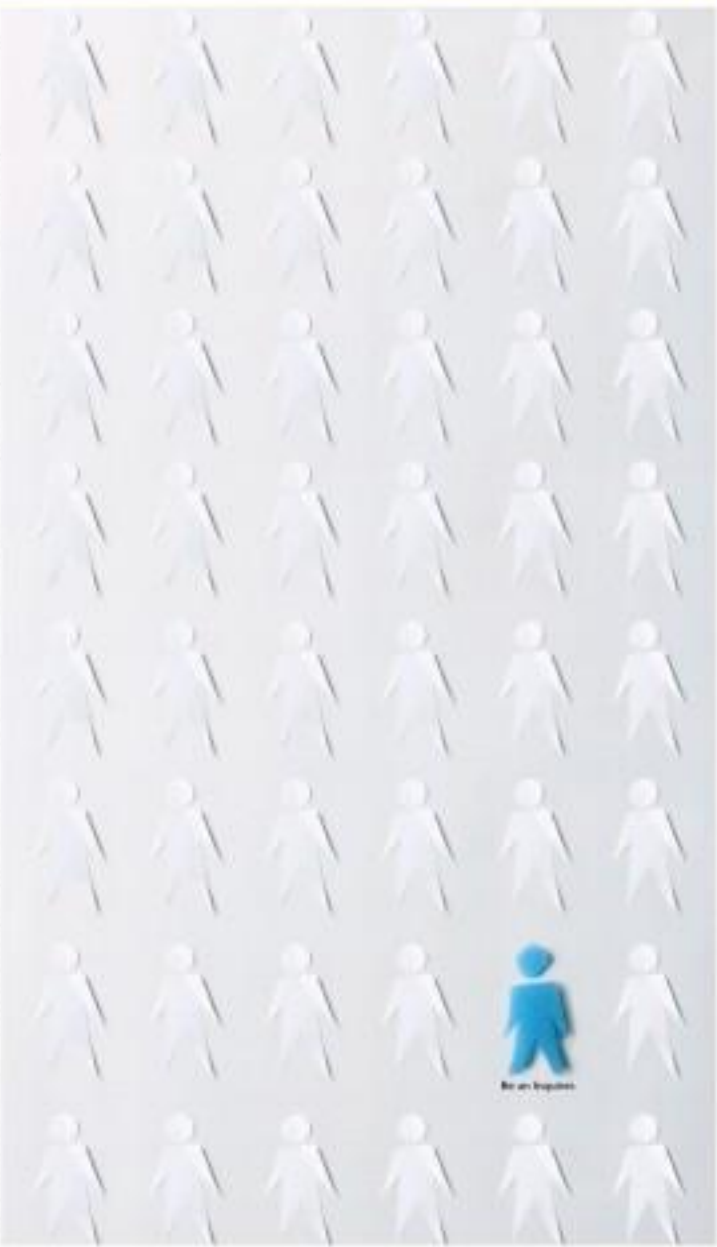
Tatamen, 55, is Ortega's FIS manager, since the program required the mostly-fish with accredited his school.

"Under this program, the farmer-scientist must share his farm knowledge to the community particularly farmers," Tatamen says.

Ortega's products surprised participants who attended a research and development forum organized by the Highland Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium at the Bell Tower on Aug. 15-17.

Ortega says he has extensively shared his knowledge to Cosico's farmers.

"Unfortunately it appears that they do not receive enough support from the local government and agriculture officials," he says.



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IN THIS ISSUE
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Women's hope shines through

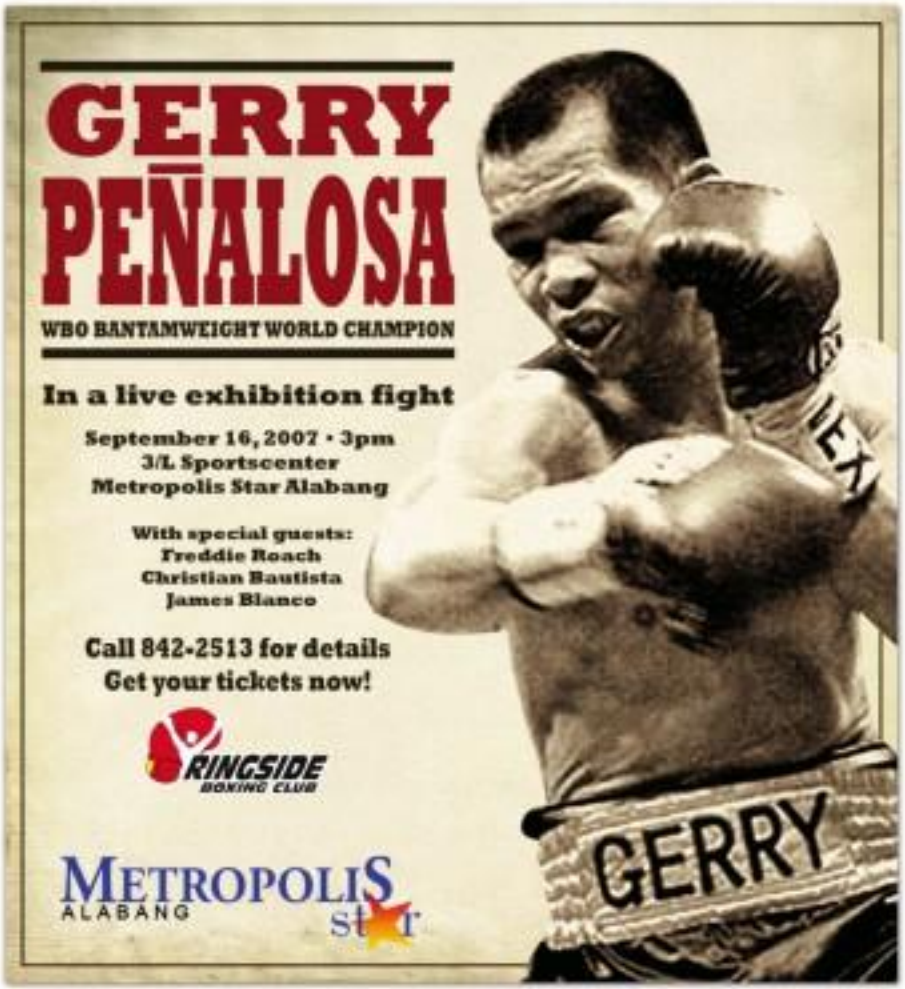
By Nowrie C. Borjes

FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, SOCORRO Acevedo, Lynnie Dorilla, Betty Lourdes Tabanda and Mila Uding have made it their mission to improve the lives of women and their families through awareness and outreach and community service projects.

To assist these four women in their endeavors, Avon recently awarded each of them P100,000 through its Hello Tomorrow Fund, a global initiative that recognizes NGOs and individuals who empower women

SUMMARY, D4

AVON Hello Tomorrow grantees Mila Uding, Lenyn Betty Tabanda, Lynnie Dorilla and Cory Acevedo



Turning stones into schools

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN 1993, AFTER FAILING TO REACH the top of K2, the world's second highest peak, US mountaineer Greg Mortenson stumbled upon Korphe, an impoverished Pakistani village in the Karakoram Mountains. The villagers, led by their chief Haji Ali, welcomed the ailing Mortenson and, with dwindling cups of tea, started him back to health. Mortenson promised in return to build a school for the children.

But Mortenson did not have money. So emergency-room nurse, he worked irregular shifts so he could do climbing in his spare time. Living from paycheck to paycheck, he slept in his old car at night.

Mortenson wrote 580 letters to politicians, movie stars, foundations. His mom's letter, all he received was a hundred-dollar donation from news anchor Tom Brokaw. But a climber friend read Brokaw's note of encouragement and decided to write a magazine article about the project.

What Jean Hoerni, a fellow mountaineer and a physicist, read she couldn't, he decided to help. The cost of the school, Hoerni learned, was only US$12,000.

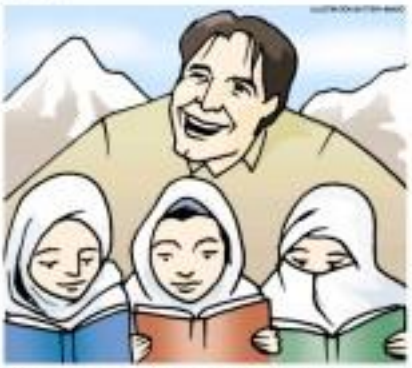
Three cups of tea

Mortenson returned to Pakistan and encountered problems—city construction, dangerous roads, misappropriating leaders that the open-hearted and generous Mortenson made life-long friends, who became indispensable in his task. Mountain porters helped carry building materials into the then inaccessible terrain. A tent shiver sold his cash and became a dedicated assistant. Former Taliban fighters turned away from violence and helped him in his mission of peace. Most of all, they stopped supporting the oppression of women and started building schools for girls.

To inaugurate the project, Mortenson had to fix the third time with Haji Ali. "The first time you share tea with us, you are a stranger. The second time you take tea, you are an honored guest. The third time you share a cup of tea, you become family, and for our family, we are prepared to do anything, even die."

"Three Cups of Tea: Building Peace One School at a Time" is Mortenson's book (written with journalist David Oliver Relin) about how the humanitarian part of a Pakistani family and community, and how he built not just one, but 55 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan over the next decade.

Inspirational and heart-warming, the book is a timely reminder of what it takes to achieve genuine peace today: education



Nurse and mountaineer Greg Mortenson's book, 'Three Cups of Tea,' is a timely reminder of what it takes to achieve genuine peace today: education

versus and border guards to pacify. After the success of the Korphe school, and with financial support from Hoerni, Mortenson returned many more times to dangerous places, in the midst of civil wars and bombings.

Mortenson survived close calls in Central Asia, but he did not have an easy time at home. After 9/11, the US government declared its "war on terror," and Mortenson was interrogated by the CIA. He feared a lot of government misgivings. While he was talking to the United about the project, a Republican congressman inquired about US aid to Muslim religious schools, was the most important need of the moment. Here was what Mortenson had to say:

"I don't do what I'm doing to fight terror. I do it because I can about kids. Fighting terror is maybe seventh or eighth on my list of priorities. But working over there, I've learned that terror doesn't happen because some group of people somewhere like Pakistan or Afghanistan decide terrorism is fun or. It happens because children aren't being relieved a bright enough future where they have a reason to choose life over death."

In the Pentagon, he gave this message: "You have to I can tell, we've launched 116 Tomahawk cruise missiles into Afghanistan so far. Take the cost of one missile tipped with a Raytheon guidance system, about US$840,000. For that much money you can build dozens of schools that can provide tens of thousands of students with a balanced non-extremist education over the course of a generation. Which do you think will make us more secure?"

For too much dying

Mortenson, who many people hope will win the Nobel Peace Prize, remained undeterred despite the hostile reactions. As his work spread, people began sending donations to the branches. In one of his later trips, Mortenson sought the support of a powerful tribal leader, Commandeller Sadhar Khan.

"We fought with Americans, here in these mountains, against the Russians," said Khan. "But though we heard many promises, they never returned to help us when the dying was done."

"There has been far too much dying in these hills," Khan continued. "Every week, every families that you are before us, one of my martyrs who sacrificed their lives fighting the Russians and the Taliban. Now we must make their sacrifices worthwhile. We must turn these stones into schools."

For more information on Mortenson's project, visit www.threecupsoftea.com. "Three Cups of Tea" (Penguin Books, 2006) is available in selected Bestsellers Book Store branches.

Women's hope shines through

From page B1

through locally-run projects.

Socorro Arevalo

A program director of A Home for the Angels Child Caring Foundation, Inc., Arevalo aids women and children in Bataan, Manila, Smokey Mountain, Pasadena Heights and other underserved areas in Manila through alternative and creative approaches to early childhood care and development (ECCD). The Learn and Play Program she initiated trains mothers-teacher volunteers to provide classroom services to pre-school-age kids. The program has been recognized by UNICEF as one of the models in best practices in ECCD in the region.

Since 2000, Learn and Play has helped more than 200 women and children understand their rights. It has also helped women gain employment by developing their livelihood skills. "These trained mothers have also developed self-confidence and have participated in livelihood and income-generating projects of different organizations. Through the continuing seminars, their parenting skills, responsible parenthood and family life have improved. Many mothers' heads of elementary or high school have enrolled in skills training and livelihood programs."

On the other hand, Rachela Tiongson, put up in 1989, has served thousands of babies from abandoned, divorced mothers to pregnancy crisis situations and helped prostitutes find ways towards healing and reconciliation.

Arevalo will use the three grants to sustain and further expand the programs by networking with more volunteers and organizations. "A paradigm shift in terms of access to education must be introduced for parents and children, helping women-mothers-as-teachers, neighbor and experience 'Skills Tomorrow' as the future of their family is at stake."

Lynnie Davilla

Established in 1992, the Metro Club of Iloilo City II, Inc. has been raising awareness on violence against women, encouraging rights, reporting of such cases and providing women such options to financially support themselves and their children.

Davilla, Iloilo Rolls II has been initiating an Information and Education Campaign to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children, seminars in Iloilo City's public schools such students to recognize physical, psychological and sexual violence, early signs of abuse, relevant laws and institutions and how to foster gender equality at home.

The seven winners and children in Iloilo City are lucky enough to enjoy their dreams because of their increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of rights and programs. Existing support and security mechanisms also ensure victims are protected from their abusers," said club president Davilla.

Since 1996, the club's Shelter for Threatened Victims has been providing temporary refuge to women and children who are victims of domestic violence and rescued by the Iloilo City PNP Women and Children's Desk from their abusers.

In August 2004 to March 2005, Zonta Iloilo II organized Project Nanay: Baking and Food Preparation, a skills training and livelihood seminar to assist poor women, breadwinners and the disabled.

The group also plans to establish its Bayanihan Community cooperative store, "Through this project, it will make the urban poor women livelihood productive, self-reliant, and most of all, learn their self-esteem," said Bella Lining, executive director of the organization founded by her husband Ernesto, the group's president.

Lining said the P45,000 from the Iloilo Women Fund will be used for the construction of the store. The remaining P60,000 will be the cooperative's capital build-up. "The visibility of the project will create a ripple effect and inspire others to get involved, and hopefully, help to build a bigger membership base. This is a dream come true for us."

AREVALO, Davilla, Lining and Tabanda with Avon's HR Director Jen Garcia and president and CEO Rob Bridges

The Avon Hello Tomorrow Fund helps movements toward women's empowerment

Betzy Lourdes Tabanda

Bagnio City's Tabanda, an Integrated Bar of the Philippines board member, applied for Hello Tomorrow to continue improving the reproductive health care information and services available to women.

Her group, Bukluran, estimates that one in 20 indigenous women in their area get illnesses of the reproductive system, including cervical cancers, every year. Since 1998, Bukluran has been conducting awareness campaign on cancer prevention and detection.

According to Tabanda, educating indigenous women on the need for reproductive health care and convincing their physically harmful reputations beliefs are Bukluran's main goals. The P100,000 grant will help provide proper medical information, examinations and treatment to more women in Bagnio City.

"In helping other women, we actually help ourselves because more empowered. Every woman has a right to make informed decisions about her body and have a better future," Tabanda says.

Mila Udang

Since 1998, Cagayan de Oro Blessed Hope Foundation, Inc. has been conducting values formation, skills training and livelihood seminars to urban poor women, breadwinners and the disabled.

The group also plans to establish its Bayanihan Community cooperative store. "Through this project, it will make the urban poor women livelihood productive, self-reliant, and most of all, learn their self-esteem," said Bella Lining, executive director of the organization founded by her husband Ernesto, the group's president.

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EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

He's so not into her

DEAR EMILY,

I am in my mid-30s, married for seven years and have a 6-year-old son. My family is now based in the United States while I work in another country for a multi-national company.

In October 2005, I met someone at work. He is Italian, tall, handsome and very smart. He is divorced and battling for full visitation rights for his son.

At first, it was just a harmless crush. We would go out after work for drinks with some friends. In March 2006, we invited him to dinner in our apartment and he told me he liked me.

I got so drunk that night and he comforted me, saying it would not change the way he felt for me.

Weeks later he invited me to have dinner with him... just the two of us and that was when I fell in love with him. I told him I had this crazy idea of going to Italy with him or to his place for the weekend. I found out he had a girlfriend in another city.

That did not stop me from seeing him. Since my work was contentbased and I was not sure if my contract would be extended, I decided I would rather enjoy whatever time we had together.

My contract got extended but he was not pleased. He decided to end the relationship though I was willing to give up everything for him. I went to his hotel room weeks later and was driven away. It was very traumatic for me.

My contract finally ended in October 2006. I never thought I would set foot in that country again but I was surprised by my former boss. So I went back in January.

He spoke to me just once. It was so awkward. We never tried to talk again. I tried to invite him though for some drinks after work to settle our differences but he declined.

All I wanted was for us to be friends again but he thought otherwise. We both got invited to a party a few weeks before the end of my contract and we were able to talk.

From there, without going into details, we spent most of the most memorable nights I ever had. We were like old friends again. It was followed by a couple more nights together before I finally left the country.

When we talked for one last time he told me he liked the idea of being my lover but not in the future. But since I left I have not stopped thinking about him. I dream of him almost every night.

I plan to visit him and some friends this October. I am not sure if this is a good idea. I want to be sure of my feelings and his. Is he just trying to control his feelings because of our situation? Is there any future for us?

RM

You're pining, hurting and thinking endlessly of him because you gave him your whole being while he only saved a fraction inside.

While your mind is consigned, accompanied, and continuing to throughout of him, he has already moved on and is emotionally away from you emotionally.

He got you effortlessly, and you may even have been deliciously alluring for a while... but as far as he is concerned that is the end of it. He is finished, done with you!

It's about as day that you have no in- race with him. If there was room to speak of a chance of a life with you in the horizon, he would have laid out his plans himself—without your prodding.

Do not delude yourself that he is just preserving your marriage and all that. Impotent.

No such thing, kid. A man in love is like a lion seeking outside roar he has, as loud as on his tongue.

Sadly, you were never a target, let us just put it that way.

Brainwash yourself that meeting him was "part" of your work contract... That he had to cooperate from your life the moment you flew out of that country.

The hell a person can take with him for a while—snow is and roll the moments in your mind. Bring out those warm memories when you need them, but not just now.

Here you head and focus on what you have. There, build on your interrupted relationship with your family. Try not to lose the journey by crying your heart out for that reverse part.

There may not be any future to wants you have if you do not let go.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letter to Inquirer, 6/F 16 Ave. corner 5th, post pic and listen to Ali Marcelo in cohost the program "Talkhouse Philippines," 7-11:30 p.m., Monday-Friday on dzRH 864.2 AM.

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Bolso-Gubaila

'My brothers will always be the world to me'

This week, I give this space to my 16-year-old daughter, Pia. Here's an essay she wrote four years ago, when she was 12

AS A PARENT, YOU CATCH yourself once in a while wondering if you are doing right by your children. In a family that has known loss such as ours, the questions can become more complex.

This week, I give this space to my 16 year-old daughter, Pia. Below is an essay she wrote four years ago, when she was 12. Last week, she discovered me a self-portrait where she is shown looking at her brother's picture.

Loss early in life imbues a child with a sense of wisdom way beyond his/her years. Coupled with it is a innate of confusion that will always be a part of their child. Rereading her essay again, I was struck at how vivid the images of our experiences as a family have really stuck to her head.

Pia knew him as the tender age of 7 when we lost Migi to 1994. A child's grief is explored in this essay that it appears at every point in the various developmental stages. Perhaps now as a teenager her way of tenaciously processing her sadness is through photography. As parents, we really need to stop every once and then and really listen to our children. Not just see them, but really pay attention to them with eyes wide open, and listen to them not only with our ears but with our hearts as well.

In the same manner, they watch and listen to us all the time, so we always need to remember that every word or action has the potential to either make or break the child.

'All I Needed to Learn in Life... I Learned from My Younger Brother'

Being an ate is hard work.

I should know; I was born into a family with two younger brothers. Older sisters often regard their younger siblings as pests, annoyances or simply those little brothers that you want to bite when you're outside or frustrated.

Being an ate myself, I won't deny the fact that, yes, my brothers can frustrate me sometimes. They, too, can be total monsters. But I don't focus on that. When they make me mad, I just remember all the good times we've had together, the lessons they've taught me and the lessons they are still teaching me as the days pass. I've learned everything I need to know from them, and they've taught me in the most unique ways.

My first younger brother Migi was born three years after me, in 1994. He was born with a heart disease called Tetralogy of Fallot, living with a brother with a disease taught me that I should accept people's differences. I understood that some people are just born with special needs or differences, and that I should learn to respect them.

I remember that he taught me how to share. We used to share everything! We shared books, toys, even the same room. Most importantly, we were raised by great parents, together.

Another important lesson that I learned from him was to be patient. I remember some days when we would play and he would get too tired, his lips would turn blue, he'd turn pale and he would have to be placed in front of an air-conditioner or myself to feel his whole being rushed back and forth by our mom.

I never really complained when this happened. I understood that I had to be patient and wait until he was all right again. I realized that my baby brother had special needs. Until today, even if I know that God has called him home, I will never forget my Migi, the brother I had who taught me so much, without reading that he did. He is always on my mind.

Happy and robust Leon

Then came Leon. He came into my life just three months after Migi became an angel. Leon seemed just as much like a sign from Migi saying, "Ate, you've got to move on now." Now, I am old enough to understand that God had to take my Migi but he also sent me little Leon to help me move on, to keep living my life. So much like dee saying, "Where God closes a door, he opens a window."

I really dote on Leon. He is now a happy and robust 5-year-old who teaches me more lessons and reminds me of those little values I read on fortune cookies.

He's got just about the greatest conscience. He is the first one to reprimand me if I do something wrong. And when I make a mistake, he always tells me that it's okay to love and that I can just try again. He really does!

He also reminds me of the most unique things, especially me to have a happiness yet! When I get sore, he says, his heart will hurt.

Leon is very intelligent for his age and really takes whatever he learns in school very seriously. Lately he has been reminding me that I should always eat fruits and vegetables. He is ever so sweet and has so much compassion for others.

The other day he told me, "Ate, this Christmas we've got to help poor people." Leon really doesn't realize how much he teaches others just by being his usual perky 5 year-old self.

A lot of people have commented that I'm a "goody-goody." I really don't mind being called such, because it makes me realize that I'm blessed to have grown up in such a stable family. My family is supportive and very willing to accept me for who I am. They have created who I am today.

My brothers have been my biggest inspiration throughout my grade-school years, and I really haven't been through an English teacher yet who doesn't know about my brothers. That is the first time, though, that I've written about how much they really mean to me.

Through this, I want to thank them—Migi up in heaven who I know may even have been with me the whole time I was writing this, and sweet Leon who is my remaining little boy.

I just want them to know how much they mean to me. I want just the best for them. No matter what happens, whether they find out or not about this essay and whatever may happen during our lives, my brothers will always be the world to me.

Avoiding sibling rivalry

- WHEN THE FAMILY IS EXPECTING a new baby, parents should begin early to talk to and convince their old- er children that their help will be important in caring for their new baby (mother or sister).
- Plan and carry out frequent "family activities" with all of your children. Avoid games and contests in which one of the children "wins" and the others "lose." Instead, look for activities or create activities where everyone is a winner if the entire family cooperates and works together.
- Parents need to spend time with each one of their children. Schedule a special day or time for each child, doing the things that the child wants to do.
- Role model good conflict resolution. If you and your spouse work through conflicts in a way that's respectful, productive and not aggressive, you increase the chance that your children will adopt those tactics when they run into problems with one another. If your kids see you constantly shout, slam doors and loudly argue when you have problems, they're likely to pick up those bad habits themselves.
- If your kids squabble over the same items—television, computers, video games—pose a scheduling that gives each child ample time to use the item of contention. This will teach them how to share.
- Make sure your child knows that he or she is loved, safe and secure.

FINGER PUPPET dolls by Broadwings Enterprises

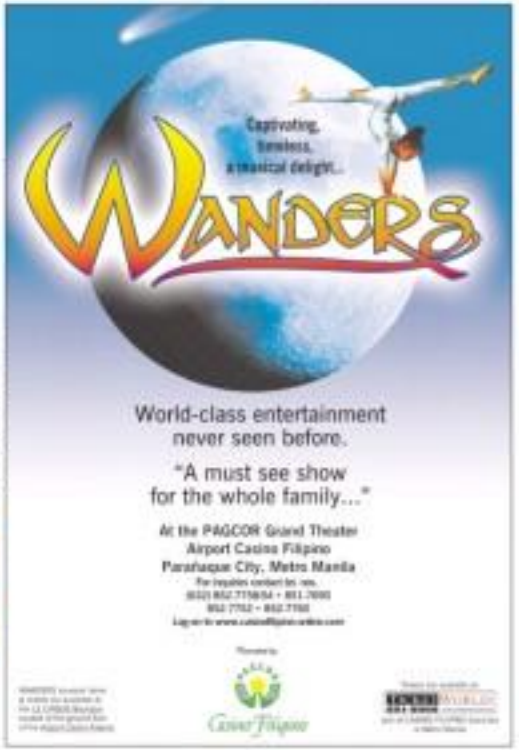
Benefit bazaar Oct. 19-20

ISABEL Diaz with beaded black-and-white printed bag by Talimays

TICKLED PINK, THE BENEFIT BAZAAR, will be held Oct. 19-20, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., at the Rockwell Tent, Makati. The Ink n Skin Age Erase technical and cosmetic treatment center, styled by Joseph Chaswell. The bazaar will showcase rare items, mostly products for expats ranging from women's wear and accessories, menswear, children's clothing and toys, home accessories, gifts, and a wide array of food. Specially designed items from Heathcote foundations are also available. Bianca Araneta, a supporter of the advocacy, is the event's signature model (6077392, e-mail araneta@yahoo.com or visit www.tickledpink.com).

THREE TO MAKE leather bag by Vintage Basics

WOODEN cuffs with silver detail by jewelry designer Bettino Damiola



PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Barcong

Nation marks centennial of La Naval's canonical coronation

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will lead dignitaries attending the centennial of the canonical coronation of Our Lady of La Naval at 4 p.m., Oct. 6, in Sto. Domingo Church.

Under the care and promotion of the Dominicans, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of La Naval de Manila, easily the most lavishly decorated and the most historically rich Marian icon in the country, was canonically crowned in 1907 in the old Sto. Domingo Church in Intramuros.

It was the first canonical coronation of a Marian image in Philippine history and the authority was extended to La Naval and the Dominicans by Pius X (now St. Pius X). The coronation drew the biggest crowd during its time—some 150,000 people—and was attended by leaders of the Catholic church around Asia. Fr. Marcelino Rodriguez's descriptions of the coronation is found in "Filegrafieo de Coleccion."

OLD STO. DOMINGO
Church in Intramuros which used to house La Naval

OUR LADY of La Naval on her feast day presented in Sto. Domingo Church, QC

Vigil

In celebration of the centennial, a Marian vigil will be held in Sto. Domingo Church at 7 p.m. On Sept. 8, a Marian liturgy Congress will be held at Ateneo de Manila University. Another vigil will spot on the same day at the Immaculate Rosario Parish in the University of Sto. Tomas.

Rides de Sto. Domingo will hold a Centennial Concert at 6 p.m., Sept. 13, at Philamlife auditorium.

Sculpture

Friends in Art (FIART), Inc., is staging an exhibit with the Mabuhay Rotary Club, presents "Ukit Milagros," an outdoor exhibit of Marian-inspired garden sculptures carved from natural river stones. Exhibit is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sept. 8-23, at UP University Avenue, Diliman. Admission is free.

It features more than 30 stone sculptures hand-carved by Laguna artisans under the direction of Ismael Mercado. Call 0917.8332865 or e-mail <ismaelmercado@gmail.com>.

Choosing Christ

Last year, Jesuit Communications began producing "Light Talk," a weekly talk show at 10 p.m., Mondays, on ABC-5. It started on Jesuit Satellite's 19 Maria channel and will soon be seen on the international Mabuhay channel.

In the show, Bishop Chito Tagle and his guests share their thoughts on pressing issues like Filipino values, faith and politics, population, unemployment, health, and the environment.

Through airtime is free, JesCom is organizing a benefit dinner on Sept. 6 to be presided by Bishop Chito's (aspiration) talk on "Choosing Christ in the World." The affair will be held at Pavilion 4&5 of the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club. Tickets cost P5,000 each. Call 4265971 or e-mail jcp@admu.edu.ph.

Pilgrimage

A group of Filipinos will leave Oct. 14 for the Holy Land, Greece, Egypt and Dubai in a Conflict of Civilization Tour. Msgr. Aristides Escotan will lead the group. Call Adams Travel at 5211631/38/91.

Commodore Francisco

Children, friends and relatives of Commodore Jose Francisco marked yesterday the 40th day of his passing. He died July 23, four days before his 96th birthday. I am asking readers to continue praying for the repose of the soul of "the grand old man of the Philippine Navy," quoting Ramon J. Fernan.

I was blessed to have met him through my friendship with his daughter Linda Francisco. Reading about his life as told to Cayher Gandora made me realize there were still great men. Credited with founding the Philippine Navy, then called Philippine Naval Patrol, he served under Presidents Pedro Quirino, Ramon Magsaysay and Carlos P. Garcia.

When he was laid to rest on July 28, the Philippine Marines and Philippine Navy gave him full military honors. Goodbye, commodore. Pray for our country.

Prayer requests

Mario Soriano, executive director of the Lourdes Friends of Angels and Mary Foundation, is offering the prayers of the children in Ephesus Home in Gargaano, Bulacan. Those who want to be prayed for can text Mario at 0917.8176918. Last time, the children received 289 requests.

Ephesus turns 7 on Oct. 5. The good work continues. Those who wish to help can text the same number.

Waiting to fall

By Doris Trinidad
Contributor

THAT AGE I BEGAN TO SUSPECT that something was not quite as it should be.

I was standing in line at the altar area of a church in Green Meadows where the famed healer priest Cirilo Legaspi was doing what he was famous for: healing people. And one by one as he touched them they seemed to turn jelly-like and heeled over backward in the phenomenon known as "slain by the spirit."

But something was the matter with me. While the multitude around me, almost routinely fell in prerapsous slow motion, caught promptly by catchers appointed for the purpose and laid on their backs on the floor, I remained distinctively upright, obviously, embarrassingly awake.

It was small consolation that my friend Hendrera beside me likewise stood her ground. Incidentally, this friend has lately, and kudos to her, attained to the category of The Fallen, or shall we call it The Rivalrous Circle of the Slain.

Healing Masses

For some weeks past I have been attending Healing Masses every Wednesday afternoons at the Ateneo Hall of Christ the King Seminary.

These Masses are part of the mission of the Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry which also conducts outreach activities in some provinces as well as regular Healing Masses in Greenhills and Makati.

The Masses at Christ the King are officiated by a charismatic priest, Fr. Mario Bijc, SVD. Besides being gifted with remarkable charism, Father Mario is also a passionate gardener. The vast seminary compound is his garden and he admits there is nothing to approximate the exultant joy he feels when he is communing with plants and growing and blooming things.

I go to the Healing Masses as often as I can. Some places seem to have a certain drawing power, as if surrounding remote areas that reach out to enfold you. This place is one of them. Invariably at some point during the Mass I realize, often to my surprise, that I'm happy. It's hard to describe or explain it. Inner world stuff is Peruvian. Global terms for it would be Peace or Joy or Being in the Moment. To myself I describe it as Awareness of the Presence of Love.

As I said it could be the place; it could be the people in the place, which you would think nothing because there are always people you are confined by association with reproducing happiness or contentment.

They are the sick and people who care about and take care of them. They are the wounded in body or spirit, the broken, in some way, or survivors of sickness and brokenness who are now giving back the gifts they have been given. By some spiritual alchemy the

hall is filled with hope and trust and thanksgiving and the promise of being happy without knowing why one is happy.

Spiritually slain

Oh, but I'm not forgetting the fact that the essence of all those purportedly uplifting words above, slain after all, has not fallen.

Of course I don't go around saying my legs need to be held erect in the midst of the spiritually slain like a tree in a forest of felled logs.

I can't help being curious, though, about the phenomenon and have asked several people what it felt like, what triggered the fall, etc. Most of them said it was a rather delicious, peaceful sensation, like being cradled or rocked as in a lullaby. Some said it did not involve losing consciousness, as in fainting, that they knew they were falling but simply couldn't resist.

My friend Hendrera, now an investment and babysitting "babes," told me it was just a matter of letting go and resting relaxing. She said even while walking afterward she already felt indescribably happy, and at times before the priest could start praying over her she was already in delicious drowsies.

During church healing sessions, I don't relish the thought of keeling over, supposedly into the arms of a stranger who might be looking the wrong way at the precise moment and might fail to catch me. Perhaps some part of my mind is squeamish about being laid supine on the floor

like friend that maybe there was something in me that was resisting the idea of falling, that I was not letting go.

Squeamish

I don't know about that. It's possible that, subconsciously, I don't relish the thought of keeling over, supposedly into the arms of a stranger who might be looking the wrong way at the precise moment and might fail to catch me. Perhaps some part of my mind is squeamish about being laid supine on the floor.

Suppose the old familiar archetypal snakes and snakes it impossible for me to get up? What resurrections? You could rightfully say I am not ready for the ascension.

I keep on it anyway, approaching the altar with the parade of penitents and closing my eyes and listening to the priest's fervent invocation for the healing of my infirmities. At times I swear I felt a sort of pressure on my forehead. Was the good priest giving me a slight push, maybe impatient himself for my downfall? I suggest, a little nonsensically, to my best—but that is all. No falling nothing happens.

Do I really care? Am I just a little worried or insecure about being bypassed in a manner of speaking by the Mayor? Should I be? My friend Teacher assures me there is no need to fall, actually. Just healing is accomplished regardless of posture or place. That one need not be struck by lightning to partake of the Light.

Of course, of course. But one does get more than a little curious. Meantime here I still am, waiting to fall. And thus another lesson keeps his eye on me: when that happens, if it happens.

UP ALUMNI Association first vice president Chitong Rivera, UP president Emerlinda Roman, Outstanding Professional Award winner Yolanda Bello Pajaro and UPAA president Gari Tiongco

Outstanding UP professional

TOLANDIA "YENG" BELLO PAJARO, founder and owner of Filipino shoe brand Via Veneziva, was one of the Outstanding Professional Awards winners on the recent University of the Philippines General Alumni Homecoming.

Three of the events held at UP Diliman's Bahay ng Alumni were "UP Alumni Kagalingang Pandalupan, Pandalubang Pilipino."

The award recognizes UP alumni for their knowledge and expertise and accomplishments and for bringing the UP spirit of service to the country.

The UP Alumni Association's first vice president Chitong Rivera and president Gari Tiongco, and UP president Emerlinda Roman presented the award for Outstanding Professional for business administration.

Pajaro, a former Speech and Drama professor, has become a major leader in the Footwear Industry with the Via Veneziva brand. Her top-of-the-line shoes marry style and function.

Filipino edition of lifestyle mag debuts September

SUMMIT MEDIA LAUNCHES THIS September the Philippine edition of Town & Country magazine.

Town & Country Philippines will be the first foreign edition of the oldest continuously published lifestyle magazine in America.

The American magazine has been around for the past 160 years, promoting good manners, good sense and good fun.

Thomas Wolf, senior vice president for Hearst Magazines International, said the company wanted Summit Media, which would publish the local edition, "to put out a magazine that would represent the Town & Country brand the right way."

Summit Media earlier came out with local editions of Seventeen Philippines, Cosmopolitan and Good Housekeeping. It has also brought in local flavor to international titles Robb, Top Gear, Marie Claire and Men's Health.

Town & Country Philippines, to be sold at P150 a copy, will have Monique Villence as editor and Rita Bertosas as editor-at-large.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

EPICIAs guests Ugoys Salonga, Gloria Reido and Lou Salonga Chien

The new Infinity Privilege Card drew an amazing roster of participating merchants ranging from luxury resorts like Nami, Discovery Suites, Plantation Bay and Pearl Farm to luxury pampering services like Beverly Hills and Urban Spa

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdez

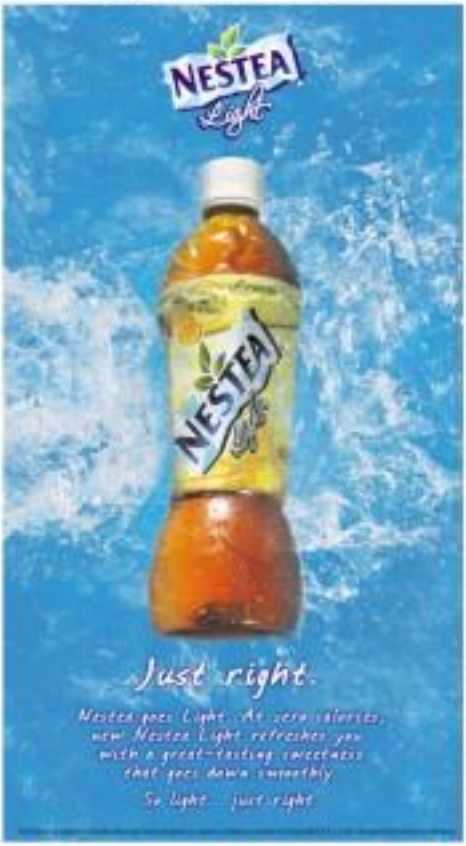
Infinity of wonders

IS THERE ANYTHING BEYOND infinity? The folks at Smart Communications have just provided the answer, and it is a resounding "Yes!"

The telco's new Infinity Privilege Card was recently launched at the Kasal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La. This first-of-its-kind exclusive card offers a perfect synergy of innovation and privileges, with a simply amazing roster of participating merchants ranging from luxury resorts like Nami, Discovery Suites, Plantation Bay and Pearl Farm to luxury pampering services like Beverly Hills and Urban Spa to luxury electronic gadgets like Sonos Harvard Sirkin.

With all these same brands of living suffix prizes, lots of lifestyle subscribers went home happy after the event, some more so than the lucky winner of the Nokia E90 mobile phone. Sweet hers is that the backlog of orders for the anti-lost-cure E65 matters to this new Communicator is clearly a favorite among business executives, thanks to its multilingual features and capabilities.

Total fabulous, president Mandy Ochoa is in charge of



Your World of Privileges

ANG MAS MATINDING WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD℠
LIBRE AT MAS MARAMI NANG DAHILAN PARA MAGSAYA!

Sa Philippines
DHL
Globe
WESTERN UNION

FAMILY friends Dr. Meily Bulmer, Emily Ortosa Pennarelli with kids Christina and Danielle...and Tessa Alfredgian

SMART and Kipling's guests Al Al-Gabres, Gil Chua, Carvalho and PLDT Smart president Pidji Maclareno

EVENT host Johnny Limon with Limon Spa's Irene Hoshee and Stephanie Co

Infinity of wonders

From page D1

NEMUR FAMILY: Nikki Alves, Sigrid Karlsson and Sandie Feliciano

MARTIN Quiroz, Smart Infinity's hostess John Carvalho and Kipling's owner Pete Villaroz

SMART Infinity girls Joe Sagrad, Nia Romero and Bruce Duenas

EDD Fuentes, Leah Payot and Anton Barreto

RIPLEY'S boys Gino Yabut, Elbert Cuenco and Benjo Ramos

PILAR Teehankee flanked by Peachy Veneracion and creator and daughter Shirley and Kim Teehankee

"ALL-STAR II" show with Frederick Peralta, Wyngard Tricy, Allan K., Sea Princess, Jaya and Jessica Sanchez

Smart Infinity has been chock full of events lately. Last week, they teamed up with Kipling's Bar at Mayabarin Emerald and produced an exclusively intimate cocktail party showcasing its Smart Universe, with the finest cigars and whiskeys from Kipling's and the finest food from Mae Castro, all served by waiters clad in formal black tie and coils, no less.

Chosen and executed by Whisky Magazine as a Great Whisky Bar of the World, Kipling's Bar is one of only three other bars in all of Asia to receive such a prestigious certification. Small wonder as the rich, elegant interiors are so inviting that guests can very well lounge for hours as they savor their single malts and Cubans.

Kipling's Bar owner Pete Villaroz was telling me the difference between a single-malt whisky and a blended scotch. One makes me blanch and the other makes me blench but a true aficionado can wax poetic on the subject.

As all Smart events, the table is always a highlight, and with the new EVC card we're chasing onboard, the host gets even more alluring. Another lucky winner bagged a Nokia E90, so the quickest route to getting one might be to just keep attending Smart's events.

As a budding singer and unlucky raffle-goer, the highlight of the night for me was the special performance of back-to-Broadway sensation Lea Salonga Chiaro. Technically perfect in her vocal range, raw vocals for my dream partner for "Celebrity Duets." I had tears in my eyes as she crooned her hits there "Miss Saigon" and other numerals.

My jaw dropped in admiration at such awesome talent. Trying to absorb anything else might help my singing, I paid close attention to every detail, even the angle and distance of the mic to her mouth. Understandably, no amount of recording or demos can match the experience and management of the EVC program. He fielded in numerous comments from all over the country, including top bookers and event owners. I was hoping to win a tournament package from Bergbahn Indoor since I practically live there. Alas, I was definitely unlucky in the raffle.

The evening's hosts, Johnny Limon and I, drew so many names that it seemed like more than half of the guests were called to claim the wonderful prizes. Smart Infinity's dynamic Julie Carvalho, department head of the Infinity Business Group, won all such all-time-rewarding merchandise, including a diamond-encrusted ring and cufflinks, specially designed and crafted by Giuseppe Tenisi of Rotisi Jewels.

Hitting two birds with one stone, the evening was also the official introduction of the Smart Infinity EVC Platinum Master Card. New cardholders experience world-class services and VIP assistance that only select and influential people. Surely, there's more to a card more space in our wallets for one more piece of plastic fantastic.

Top whiskey bar

Chosen and executed by Whisky Magazine as a Great Whisky Bar of the World, Kipling's Bar is one of only three other bars in all of Asia to receive such a prestigious certification. Small wonder as the rich, elegant interiors are so inviting that guests can very well lounge for hours as they savor their single malts and Cubans.

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Claude's art

Lately, acclaimed artist-sculptor-chef Claude Tayag has an upcoming exhibit, "Points/Palette," at Alliance Française de Manille on Sept. 6. In his watercolor mixed-upon, multi-layered Claude expresses images with his spontaneous abstraction of local markets, sidewalk eateries and food vendors.

Do drop by Alliance Française's Total Gallery to check out this exciting exhibit which runs until the end of September. E-mail: rsalonga@alliance.ph or call 4005322 for details.

E-mail me at angelinesa@philstar.com.ph

SMART Wireless Consumer Division head Bong Mojica

MASTERCARD head Pam Villarosa and Punta Fuego Taal Vista GM Alfredo Rocs

TOTAL Solutions president Mandy Ocampo with his mentor, Dr. Mely Bulmer

FANTASTIC International owners Angie and Ike Garyasali

SALA Restaurant and People's Palace owners Chito Angeles and Colin Mackay

LORRAINE SCHUCK, John Ochman, Bernd Calsenig and Heidi Rambow

DEPUTY Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation Irene Flastiger with Hanns Seemann Schmid, a former resident of Zurich now living in Manila

FATHER and son, Raul and Jose Raoul Teehankee

SEM. PIA Cayetano

SWIMMING at the SEME Triathlon de Genève

COSTUMED revelers all pretty in pink during Fête de Genève

MONSIEUR Philippe Guenot

AMBASSADOR Dario Castillo, ambassador de Honduras, World Trade Organization

WITH HSBC's Malcolm Miles Vivo, traveling to Dubai must be a business treat. left) Cagayan de Oro, Camarines Sur or Ilocos Sur is a few bonus points away.

Have card, will travel

TRAVELING BUDdies Marielle Santos, Sara Black and Abed Ahmad can't get enough of the beach, and they often head for hotspots like Cebu, Boracay and Bohol.

"We research and organize the things we want to see and do, so we won't miss out on anything," says Santos. "We also make it a point to find the best food joints, because we love to eat!"

If like their barkada, you also like traveling and eating out, HSBC's Malcolm Miles Visa is the card just for you.

"The HSBC Malcolm Miles Visa offers the best conversion rate of any credit card mileage program, allowing you to get the most bonus points/miles for your money," says Sarah Santos, HSBC's senior vice president and head of marketing. "Every P45 you charge to your card earns you one bonus point/mile. Use your card to buy groceries, gas up, shop, or even pay your utility bills, and with every pass, you're one step closer to a free vacation."

If you gas up at a Caltex station, you get a three percent rebate in addition to the bonus points/miles earned.

With SmartFlights, HSBC Malcolm Miles Visa cardholders can double the value of their points/miles they send or buy additional bonus points/miles (normally P1.25 for each bonus point/mile), you get two bonus points/miles for the price of one.

"HSBC Malcolm Miles cardholders can even double or triple their bonus points/miles by patronizing HSBC's Triple Miles partner merchants," adds Santos. HSBC Malcolm Miles Gold cardholders earn three bonus points/miles, while Malcolm Miles Classic cardholders earn two bonus points/miles for every P45 spent at Triple Miles partner establishments.

The shorter HSBC Malcolm Miles Visa cardholders can earn trips to places like Cagayan de Oro, Laoag, Iloilo, Ilocos Sur, Camarines Sur, Legazpi de Oro, Tagbilaran, Dipolog, Butuan, Surigao, Tuguegarao, Tacloban, Ozamiz, Dumaguete, Iligan, Bacolod, Davao, Iloilo, Baguio, Zamboanga, Cotabato, Cebu, Bohol, Boracay, Puerto Princesa, Siargao, Coron

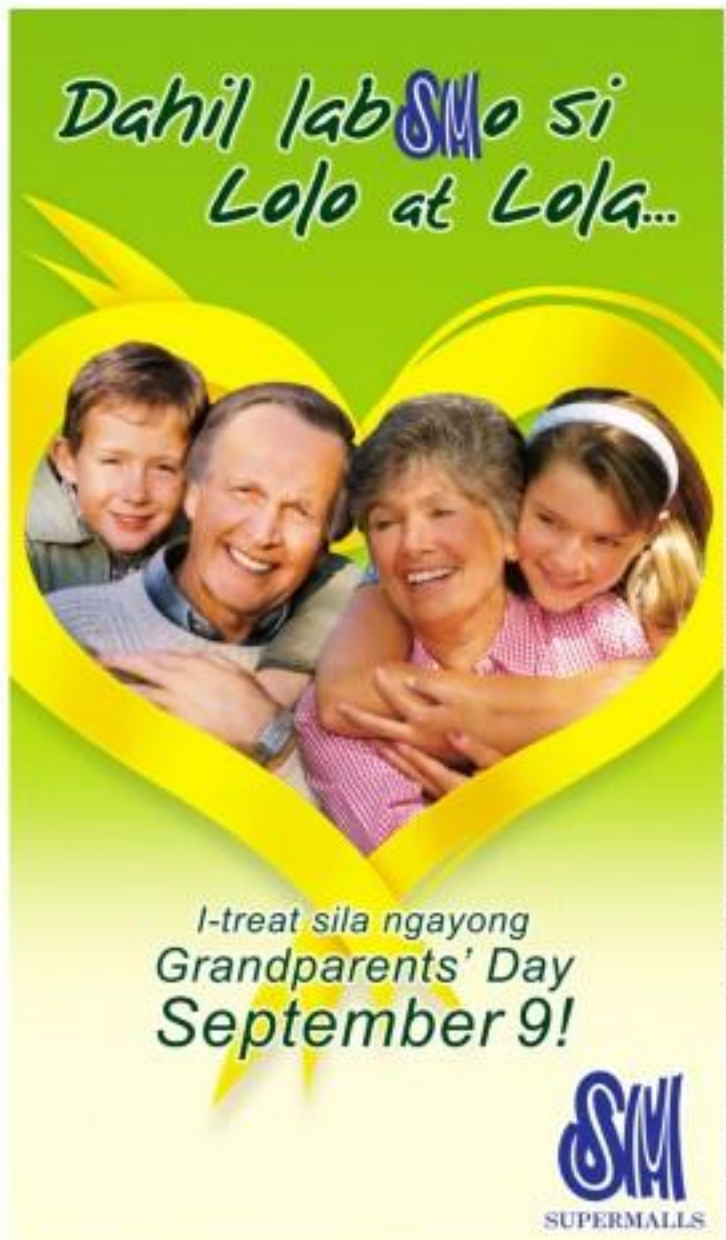
ALSA Martel, chairperson of the ball; Madame Silvia Schulz of Argentina; Agnes Philbrooke, co-chair of the ball; Marisol Cuisinberg

AMBASSADOR Ameen Wafi of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Jorge Navarro of Chile, Ambassador Juan Felipe Fitz of Panama

AMBASSADOR Herbert Jaeger of Austria, Washington Sycip, JSSP adviser; Marie Prieto, chairman, Philippine Daily Inquirer (standing); Consul of Bulgaria Rene Lucas Ledesma; Consul of Monaco Fortuna Matz-Ledesma, Johann Strauss Society of the Philippine president

JSSP officers Lany Syquia, chair; Helmut Stalzberger, vice president; and Kay Sicam, founder

Johann Strauss Society holds dinner musicale



THE JOHANN STRAUSS SOCIETY OF THE Philippines (JSSP) held recently a dinner-musicale that saw the induction of its officers and board at the Ballroom of Shangri-La Hotel Manila.

The event was organized by the incoming committee headed by president Fortuna Ledesma, VP Olga Severino Martel and secretary Agnes Philbrooke.

The ballroom was decked with red and white roses and hangings in the colors of the Austrian flag in honor of the musician waltz king Johann Strauss II.

The artists featured were Austrian pianist Ernest Hintel, who played Mozart's Fantasy in D Minor; pianist Philippine soprano Rachelle Custodio; and mezzo soprano Lenneli de la Cruz, who sang arias from popular operas.

Ambassador Herbert Jaeger of Austria and JSSP founder and president emeritus Kay Sicam inducted the officers.

Lany Syquia (chair); Fortuna Matz-Ledesma (president); Olga Severino Martel and Helmut Stalzberger (vice presidents); Philbrooke (secretary); Charisse Chanduan (assistant secretary); Fanny Blanco (treasurer); Magda Ortiz Luis (assistant treasurer); and Kitty Chua, Catalina Ardona, Cher Icaba, Johnny Limos, Mila Nera, Basil Concepcion, Mike Gorela, George Yang and Ed Yap (directors).

The board of advisers include Ambassador Jaeger, Imelda Cojuangco, Shyly Hechanova, consul general of Austria to the Philippines Washington Sycip, Gen. Lucilly Rhodrigal, Susie Ortigas and Nedy Tantoco.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines received a substantial donation from Cojuangco, Hechanova, honorary consul of Peru Francis Chua and Betty Chua.

Other donors: Bill Bracaldeo, CATS Motors; SM Group of Companies; PAC Investing; FF Cruz Jr.; Hilda Hein, Ambassador Pedro Yap and Zuzu Gray; Filipinas Palm Oil Processing, Inc.; Waterfront Container Leasing Co. Inc.; San Miguel Corp., Mandarin Oriental Manila, Pagoda, Morales and Bolipat.

Ambassadors and consuls from 32 countries were present. Seated at the table of Ledesma were Ambassador Jaeger, Marilen Cornado, Consul of Bulgaria Rene Ledesma, Alex and Marisol Perez of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, former ambassador Precious Antonio, Syquia, Philippine Tatler editor Armor Sari Negre, Consul of Zambia Agnes Philbrooke and Limos.

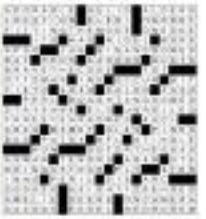
Ambassador Mario Arbuli of Argentina, Madame Silvia Schulz, Ambassador Jorge Blanco of Chile and Madame Johanna Montero, Ambassador Oscar Ibarra of Switzerland, Madame Irene Plankiger and Ambassador Evodius Par Campos of Mexico were at the table of Martel.

At the table of Syquia were Ambassador Arshia Saqi of Israel, Madame Hannah Isagi, Philippine Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon and Madame Kay Siazon, former Senator Lui Ejercito, Rose and Rodney Ong.

Other members of the diplomatic corps present were Ambassador of Japan Ryuichiro Yamazaki, Ambassador of Italy Amy Roberto Feddo and Madame Cosetta Dedole, Ambassador of Thailand Asha Devakunlanda, and the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Egypt, Malaysia, Turkey, Panama, Qatar and Palau.

Former Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban was at the table of Consul Vitco Carlos and Madame Tina Carlos.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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Seven ways to gracious living

WHILE REMAINING PROUD of its American heritage, Ethan Allen has infused Asian and European influences to its designs as it recognizes the various style preferences of its clients. For this reason, the brand has introduced the seven lifestyle PODS or Projections of Distinct Styles.

Glamour. Scarce/rich woods, sleek fronts, luxurious materials and fine accessories capture the essence and grace of glamorous living. The person who lives here loves to entertain, appreciates the style of fine tailored clothing and is detail-oriented in home and wardrobe. Well-traveled and savvy business people perfectly fit the Glamour pod.

Global. Warm woods, natural fibers, vivid colors and distinctive collectibles suggest your taste for the exotic, your fondness for distant cultures and your appreciation for all things eclectic. It's a globally inspired environment where you want to live—always comfortable, always interesting, and always homey.

Loft. Starting out or pairing down begins with the notion of the "little black dress"—a look and philosophy that celebrates simplicity, style and the enduring character of good design. Neat contemporary lofts and vibrant industrial, soft and subtle, the surrounding are clean, fresh and peaceably appealing—just the way you want to live.

Villa. A taste of Tuscany, the essence

ESTATE celebrates classic Americana.

More Reasons to Celebrate with Chocolate Marjolaine, Now Made Better!

Red Ribbon Bakeshop has weaved us for the past 48 years with its wide variety of beautiful cakes that taste as good as they look. Last year, it gave us an irresistible delight with its introduction of Chocolate Marjolaine. And in just less than a year's time, Chocolate Marjolaine has brought cakes to numerous Filipino homes as the centerpiece of their celebrations. Now, Red Ribbon gives us more reasons to celebrate with its improvement made on the household favorite!

Layers and layers of the Chocolate Marjolaine's **meringue wafers are made more crispy**, *with each wrapped in the decadence of more chocolate and nestled between more helpings of exquisite praline cream. Delight in its toppings of rich chocolate nuggets, toasted cashews and a trace of premium chocolate. The new improved Chocolate Marjolaine definitely brings more "oooohs" and more "aaaahs" to your special celebrations.*

Chocolate Marjolaine is the perfect cake for that special occasion or the perfect gift for that special loved one. Whether it's a party for two or a big birthday bash, the Chocolate Marjolaine made better surely brings more "oooohs" and "aaaahs" to the table.

Visit a Red Ribbon branch nearest you or call 242-7777. Metro Manila to have the Chocolate Marjolaine, made better, delivered to you.

It's always beautiful with Red Ribbon

15th Century Stoneware

Man uses his hands to shape how he satisfies his hunger.

16th Century Earthenware

As man evolved, so did his taste but his hunger stayed the same.

17th Century Porcelainware

Eating has become an artform that made man crave for more.

1995 Styroware

We introduced an easy way for man to satisfy his hunger.

Turn the page to see what's in store for the modern man.

Secrets of the hood

TODAY'S KITCHEN IS MUCH MORE than a place to cook. The kitchen can be a gathering place for a crowd or a quiet place to prepare and eat an intimate meal. The kitchen has also always been the heart of a family's home. It is a true room that a family prepares meals, shares meals, and gathers to talk about the day. This is the room where guests gather, where friends play games around the kitchen table, and where parents might relish a quiet time at the end of the day. It is, therefore, a necessity for the kitchen appliance to be comfy and dependable.

Range hoods were invented as a pragmatic answer to hot, smelly kitchens. These days, while they still are expected to do that job, they have another, equally important responsibility: Range hoods have to be practical, almost stainless, and have to make a fashion statement. Range hoods have become the focal point of a well-designed kitchen.

TODAY'S traditional hoods combine striking details with high technology.

SAY goodbye to creases, grease, fumes and odors with Teka.

Sound of silence

There are kitchen sounds that we love. The soft crackling of deep fried food, the gentle clicks of wok-fried food, and the ding of the kitchen timer that tells us the cooking's done.

Through all these, one sound remains unfamiliar and quite a nuisance in the kitchen: the noise of the common range hood. Rarely is conversation can be carried over the din.

So, might person still be happy about the noise. Homeowners and chefs alike complain about the noise. It's typical to hear the following statement: "Stated talk about the noise! Nobody can hear anything when I've got my range hood turned on, but if I don't turn it on when I'm using the grill, everyone chokes on the smoke."

If you can empathize, it's time for a new range hood. Range hoods have come a long way. The newest models are more effective and those with remote fans are much, much quieter. Teka believes that the kitchen must be a noiseless space. Unlike other producers, silence comes as a standard and not as a costly option. With sound levels of 50 decibels or less (equivalent to the sound of a gentle breeze), sometimes you'll wonder if it is really on.

Aroma overload

There is nothing that speaks of home more than the welcoming aromas of food being cooked. In fact, there are distinctive smells you associate with the kitchen, such as the aroma of simmering garlic and onions. However, too much of these smells just together, combined with smoke and grease, create odors that needed to be quickly removed from the air.

Cooking odors are actually only one of the problems created when a stove is not ventilated properly. Grease, smoke and moisture are generated when cooking, and without a range hood, all of that greasy vapor eventually settles onto walls and furniture, creating sticky, dirty surfaces that soon create a tacky color of their own.

The Teka Attraction system is based on the science of the 'dimout effect. This ensures that the air accelerates, passing through a narrowing vent. A barrier that avoids the fumes to funnel and the odors do not escape through the fume and the side panels of the hood. This makes the suction of the hood homogenous in all perimeters, and minimizes energy consumption as well.

Completely purified air doesn't just mean a good filtration system, but also an efficient extraction process. Both need to work seamlessly to provide clean, pure air at all times. Teka achieves this in two ways: through an exhaust duct to the outside of the home, or through a charcoal filter system.

The charcoal filters absorb fumes, steam, odors and grease to purify the air, regenerating it back into the room. It is a very simple, economic, and ecologically sound technique, but it does rely on the replacement of charcoal filters when the accumulation of particles reduces the effectiveness of the system.

TODAY'S kitchens create [illegible]

Bright and intelligent

Another important function of hoods is to illuminate the cooking area. Teka hood lighting ranges from traditional bulbs to four directional halogen lamps integrated into the ceiling to provide a more homogeneous lighting solution. Both options offer good levels of light over the cooking area, and the slope of the canopy on some models avoids overwhelming the user's eyes.

Teka's range hoods are classified as "intelligent hoods" the hood is so ergonomic and there is no need to adjust it manually. Furthermore, it is always at the right speed to minimize noise levels and to ensure optimal energy consumption and exhaust efficiency.

The humidity detector is a sensor that starts up automatically when it detects steam in the kitchen, regulating the speed in accordance with the humidity level (from the first speed to the third one). The moment it no longer detects humidity, it turns off automatically.

Teka develops products that maximize a high degree of technological innovation while allowing flexibility to reflect the user's own personality. From shaped hobs (the electric-gas ranges) to crystal wing hoods or old style ovens, Teka products can enhance any kitchen.

In this case, comfort is a value that becomes not only associated with the living room, but also with the kitchen. This explains why Teka keeps elevating its standards and offering more choices to deliver products that go beyond expectations and that suit individual needs and aesthetics.

What sets all kitchen appliances should be square and boring? What's stylish and modern curves make for warm, playful and whimsical kitchens without compromising on great features and amenities.

Check out various options to personalize your kitchen at Kitchen Bath Gallery A/F Homebuilders Institute, Glorietta II. Kitchen Enterprises Inc. at 2376 Chinggiano St. Ave., Quezon City or at Teka Kitchenchuk 912, Bistro Depot, 821 Shaw Blvd. Call 7407595, 7296958, 6350057.

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — ODES

ACROSS

1 Tiny insect(s)
5 Try sushi
14 "Trees with talents"
15 [illegible]
16 Talk
17 Radio Disney fare
18 Water lack in iron ore
19 Library
20 "___ smashing!"
21 Tv info station
23 Dr. Watson player Bruce
24 Spotted
25 I have ___ (dog of "Peter")
26 Pretzel
27 Like a cyclone
28 CLEO, D.C.
29 Delayed action
30 Ground floor
31 Actress Ina
32 Fabric
___ in sober a hand
___ (engaged)
34 Nobel Sci.
35 Peripheral
37 Quite safe
Bungalow
38 Polygon
39 Chicago's ___ Lake
40 Lets with
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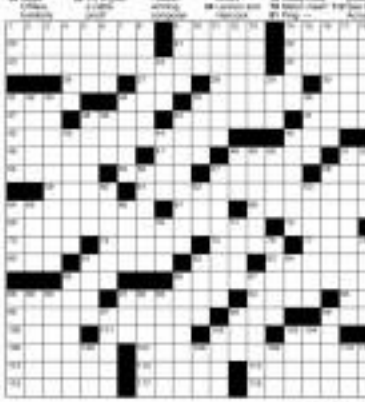

answer on page D4

ADAPT and Eco-Jay bed, UV-protected polyethylene and water-repellent cushion and pillows; Kanopan floor lamps with woven rice and handmade paper

ALISON, made entirely from indigenous materials

Filipino design showcases

LOOSEN LIVING IS A LOCAL enterprise engaged in the retailing and distribution of world-class Philippine-made furniture. The company was a spin-off of Loosen International, established in 1979 by couple Roberto and Godelyn Loosin.

Loosen Living's furniture and home accents are showcased in a showroom in Quezon Avenue. The products, now numbering around 1,000 varieties, utilize different materials: rattan, metal, sea grass, abaca, handmade paper, and other indigenous items.

Loosen Living pieces have been used in a number of popular shows: "Sex and the City," "Still in Love," "The O.C.," "Friends," as well as Will Smith's movie, "Hitch."

The company recently participated in Manila FAME International, a four-day trade show with over 400 companies showcasing home furnishings, gifts and housewares, holiday décor and fashion accessories. The exhibitors, tagged Asia's best design directors, were organized by the Department of Trade and Industry's Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions. It is the only trade event in the country recognized by Union des Foires Internationale, a France-based union of the world's leading trade show organizers.

Visit www.loosin.com.

SAANTING polypropylene woven lounge chair with Kagami Mirror Division, embellished with Bilaan floor lamps made with handmade paper and rattan

VILLA exhibits Mediterranean influences.

GLOBAL represents a merger of the classic and the contemporary.

LOFT—casual urban lifestyle

Seven ways to gracious living

GLAMOUR, for well-traveled and savvy business people

METRO is more urban and cosmopolitan

Photograph #1

of Provence, and a touch of the American South enlighten these Villa inspired surroundings with sun-soaked colors, dreamy florals and the unmistakable influence of celebrated artisans. Sturdy, elegantly carved woods, hand-forged wrought-iron and classic stoneware live in elegant harmony with richly-hued styles, colors and finishes.

An individual who values home, children and even pets will fall in love with the Villa pad. The likes gardening, tempting, entertaining and cooking as well.

Metro. This is how you want to live: working, relaxing, dining and entertaining in sure-undings that mirror the tempo of metro life and take the best advantage of available space. Free of clutter, you can focus on your priorities and draw on natural elements—exposed brick, metals, timbers, stones and textures—to complement your purchase for simplicity, practicality and understated design.

Classic Haven. An elegant, established country house style...whether formal or relaxed—bears the imprint of previous generations, traditions and the art of living well. Someone who has seen the rest of the world lives here. He appreciates fine art and music, and for entertainment and personal armor of fashion are eclectic and rich with color and texture.

Visit Ethan Allen's design center at Pacific cor. Bohanon St., Mandaluyong. Call 6344587.

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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and send clearest sitting with a photo of the couple and a shot of the bridal gown, if any, to the bayanes. *Inquirer Central Desk* Office 1261 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

OBIA-AN-O DIZON

Details: Obia-An, son of **Rumilio** and **Henrietta Obia-An**, recently exchanged vows with Dr. Ma. **Pamela Dizon**, daughter of **Ruben** and **Adelaida Dizon**, at Sanmarie de Sto. Juan.

The bride wore a **Leonard** Co all white Mikado silk sateen gown with matte gold duchess satin: floor-length veil of mini sleeves. The dress was embroidered with matte gold floral and bow patterns, and embellished with cut glass crystals, pearls and sequins.

PEÑALES-MONDEJAR

Chris Hosiewalter Peñales, son of Orlando and Linda Peñales, will wed Jeanne Legaspi Mondejar, daughter of Celso and Elsie (deceased) Mondejar, on Sept. 8 at St. Jude Thaddeus Church, General Malvar St., Davao City. Reception will follow at Top of the Apo, Apo View Hotel, J. Camus St., Davao City.

CELESTIAL 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Dido and Christy Celestial will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary on Sept. 4.

PIÑAWLASAMY-DIONISIO

William Pinawlasamy, son of Sammy and Josephinemary Pinawlasamy of Iringo, Malaysia, will wed **Lorelie Dionisio**, daughter of Jose and Stella Dionisio, on Sept. 15 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Juan Sumilao Kolasa, Klang Town, Malaysia. Dinner reception will be in Taman Sethegaya in Jalan Kota Raya, Raja-pang Jaya, Klang Town, Selangor.

The bride will wear a burgundy suit with gold trimmings chosen by the mother of the groom. Another dinner reception will be held for the bride's family and friends on Sept. 29 at the main dining hall of 9501 Restaurant, 14/F SLI Building, Mother Ig. ..., QC.

CALAYAG-BANAAG

Ronaldson A. Calayag, son of Angel and Bonnie Calayag of Malolos, Bulacan, will wed Ipolita C. Sunang, daughter of Alejandro (deceased) and Amelia Banaag of Lopez, on Sept. 8. Ceremony and reception will be at Jumbo Hotel, QC.

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Ennie G. Vera
Use feedback: inquirer.entertainment@gmail.com; fax 896-2086 and 893-3144; or send to PO Box 4, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

INSIDE
'Lust'-ful Venice entry InHollywood /F2
Shaina need not worry about Angel Rushes /F6

'Kubrador,' 'Kaleldo' lead Urian nominees

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED INDIE movies "Kubrador" and "Kaleldo" lead the Best Picture race in the 2006 Gawad Urian to be given out by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipinas, the country's oldest critics, on Sept. 13, 7 p.m., at the Sentro Lea Salonga Theater of the Ateneo de Manila University.

"Kaleldo," about the struggles of a farming collector, nearly swept the nominations. Andy Ilasin garnering nominations for director Jeffrey Arturian and lead actress Gina Pareño, it is also nominated for Best Supporting Actor (Dominggo Landicho), Screenplay, Production Design, Cinematography, Editing, Music and Sound.

"Kubrador," a poetically charged film about a Sampaguitan patriarch and his three daughters living in post-Ishmo Hamburger, got nominations for its director, Dalliance Mendoza, and its actresses, Cherrie De Ocampo and Angel Aquino. It is also nominated for Best Supporting Actor (Lauren Sevares), Screenplay, Production Design, Cinematography, Music and Sound.

The Best Picture race is dominated by independent movies: "Huling Hulyan ng Hulo," Cinemanila festival grand prize winner last year; "Mayonz," internationally acclaimed semi-documentary feature on the Aetas of Central Luzon; "Todas, Todas, Todas," an unconventional take on terrorism; and "Beane and Juller," a semi-Oro tale about lesbian love.

The only studio-movie nearing for Best
HUMANGKAP /F

A DIFFERENT TUNE
For Joey Albert, the inner turning for music never stops. But the singer also has a soft spot for the tea-harmonic. As Gawad Kalinga's Ambassador of Goodwill in Canada, the two-time concert combos is now singing to help build homes for the homeless. Page F2.

DID YOU KNOW...

RP 'Idol' on GMA 7!
RELIABLE sources say "Philippine Idol" season 2 is moving from ABS-S to GMA 7. The sources say Kapuso execs are now negotiating with Pia-mundi-Medio, "Idol" franchise holder, and that big-name stars are being eyed as judges.

Beyonce sets Manila concert

HAR SUPERSTAR Beyonce, whose star-cut concerts were dubbed "The Beyonce Experience" has sold out shows worldwide, is reportedly considering a Manila stop.

The news was relayed in bygone for-entrainment by a representative of Sony BMG Pilipinas, local subsidiary of Beyonce's record label.

The 25-year-old Mrs. Jay-Z singer-songwriter and record producer, who's also an actor, dancer and fashion designer, was the lead singer of Destiny's Child—said to be the world's best-selling female group of all time.

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS. Joey with residents of Buenos, Tondo, QRC's model site

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Joey sings –and helps build homes

By Cora Lazo

IT'S HIS WAY OF LIVING THE WILL OF the spirit with the work of the body, she says.

The three years now, singer Joey Albert, two-time nation nutrition, has been lending her celebrity status to her work as a voice for the poor and homeless.

Joey talks of a better mission that she found after being appointed Ambassador of Goodwill to Canada for General Ballogo. She says her gift of music to touch the hearts of Filipinos abroad who could very well share their blessings with the less fortunate back home.

She says her advocacy started when she was invited to do a fund-raising concert for General Ballogo (GB). It was the first time she heard of the NGO.

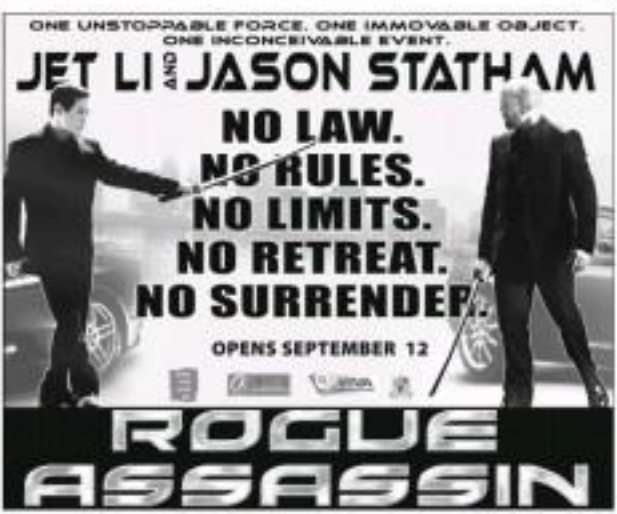
Joey, based in Canada for more than a decade now, says she was brought to the city of Edmonton, a half-hour flight from her Vancouver home, where the show was to be staged. Before the performance, she was shown video clips of the organization's work—building homes for, and thus rebuilding the lives of, poor Filipinos. One of the clips was of a concert in Fort Bonifacio that starred Martin Nievera and Gary Valenciano.

Striking message

She recounts: "I said, 'Wow, this is really good.' Then, they started explaining holistic community building. And when Gil [private citizen] Tony Meloto spoke, one line really hit me. He said, 'No Filipino should die without doing anything for his country.' I realized that, for the past 10 years, I had been so focused on my own family life, that I had forgotten that aspect. So I decided it was time to get out of my little world."

Coincidentally, the 47-year-old singer did make advocacy work in 1986 via the MBS-CBN outreach program with a similar name, "Bahay Ballogo." For four years, she was host and executive producer of the show, which provided medical assistance to the poor.

"Bahay Ballogo' planted in me the seed of involvement in public service," she says. "When you're searching for something deep, yes, I think eventually all roads will lead to a



Ang Lee's 'Lust'-ful Venice entry sets screen aflame, gets NC-17 rating in US

VENICE, ITALY — THE VENICE FILM FESTIVAL opened Wednesday with "Paranormal," which narrates director Jose Wright with his "Pride & Prejudice" star, Keira Knightley.

Its opening night gala dinner followed at the Hotel Excelsior and was capped by fireworks.

Pride Rules, directed the red carpet showing, explains in a press release, how "Lust, Caution," starred actor at its first press screening at the Palazzo del Cinema.

A sumptuous, masterful piece of cinema, "Lust, Caution" evokes the languid mystery of the period setting, the 1940s. The movie has been making news because it received a rare, exclusive NC-17 rating in the US owing to its graphic sexual scenes featuring Tony Leung and Tang Wei. The torrid, full nudity scenes in the Shanghai city device come late in the movie but when they do, they are very explicit.

In the film adapted from a short story by Eileen Chang, Tang plays a patriotic student and stage actress who seduces the intelligence boss (Tony) of China's Japan-supported government during World War II. Her nationalistic group plans to assassinate Tony's character. As Tang succeeds in battling Tony into a relationship and as they are each other's wills and weapons, their sexual exhibitions involving various Kama Sutra sexual positions intensify.

But these scenes do not overshadow Angs excellent evocation of the era and the audience's first rate performances of the cast which includes Joan Chen and Wang Lee Hom.

* * *

Below is part 2 of our Q&A, via e-mail, with Venice-bound Pinoy filmmaker Lav Diaz. The festival announced the international jury of the Orizzonti (Horizons) documentary section, in which Lav's "Ragadong: The Desperate sing naga Engkanto (Death in the Land of Encantos)," is competition. They are Gregg Araki (US), Rishi Mukhdalla Yaheeb (Syria), Giorgia Ferrio (Italy), Ulrich Gregor (Germany) and Frederick Wiseman (US).

In what ways did working as a journalist in the Philippines impact your view about the challenges Filipinos have to cope with every single day? How different was your experience working for a Filipino newspaper in the US?

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

My term as a journalist in the Philippines was quite brief, but it was brutal to the psyche. Every day you see and read all these stories, the everyday Filipino story. You were confronted by these realities and cruelty, the dysfunctions and displacements of our culture, and you'd need an iron heart not to get affected.

Also, you're overworked and there was not much money to feed your family. I was doing so many things. I did police beat for two short-lived English and Filipino tabloids, desk job for Tribu, feature writing for Malaya's Diwa, movie and film criticism for Single (Southeast Magazine and Manila Standard), writing kwento novels and short stories, writing roleplays for Balintatau, proofreading for a sports magazine.

During Lino Brocka's inside my beat, the Northern Police district jail, was crowded. He was arrested along with Behn Cervantes after an altercation with the police in Cubao during a massive jeepney strike. They were celebrities

...Lav Diaz to compete in, and close festival

At the Cinemas

GLORIETTA 1	1	2 THE INVASION	3	4 A LOVE STORY
GLORIETTA 4	1 EVAN ALMIGHTY	2 A LOVE STORY	3 THE INVASION	
	4	5 THE LAST LEGION	6 1408	7 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
GREENBELT 1	1 THE LAST LEGION	2 THE INVASION		
GREENBELT 3	1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	2 THE INVASION		
	3	4 1408	5 HAIRSPRAY	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THE INVASION	2 1408		
	3 HAIRSPRAY	4 A LOVE STORY	5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE INVASION	2 1408	3 A LOVE STORY	4 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
MARKET! MARKET!	1	2 THE LAST LEGION		
	3 A LOVE STORY	4 THE INVASION	5 1408	
TRINOMA	1 A LOVE STORY	2	3 EVAN ALMIGHTY	4
	5 1408	6 THE LAST LEGION / HAIRSPRAY	7 THE INVASION	

At the Malls

Ayala Malls

glorietta — Artcetera Exhibit, August 29 to September 2, 2007 at the Activity Center

GREENBELT — Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek presents Collection of Artists' Art, August 31 to September 10, 2007 at the Greenbelt 3 Lobby

ALABANG TOWN CENTER — Alabang Town Center Grand Grocery Shopping Spree Promo, July 11 to August 31, 2007, Alabang

AYALA CENTER CEBU — Blast Fabric of American Idol Live!, September 28, 4 PM, OnStage (Cinema 1)

MARKET! MARKET! — Auto Expo 2007, August 31 to September 3, 2007 at the Central Plaza

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Jeremy's GRIEFBELLA, Sala at Ayala Center Theater - Cinema, August 11, 2007. For inquiries, pls. call 887-4114

Ayala MUSEUM — Museum of Philippine and Transnational Art, Ayala Museum, Makati City, 10th century exhibit, June 16, 2007 to January 6, 2008 at the 3rd Floor Gallery. For more info, pls. call 757-0117 or 21 loc. 114 or email museum_inquiries@ayalamuseum.org

Tri Noma — Samsung Exhibit, an exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones, September 14 to 16, 10am to 9 pm, Atrebordes / Food Choices Level 2

glorietta GREENBELT

FEEDBACK

Not 'Idol'

From Grace Que (starry-graceque@hotmail.com), 6665 W Sunchase Ave, Chandler Spokane, WA 99403):

"Bernie's Got Talent" is not the equivalent of "American Idol." Its equivalent is "America's Got Talent." And the winner for this season is very popular. Sorry from Thanks. (Right, thank you.)

True acting

From May Lim (mayqui-sim@hotmail.com), Millbrae, California:

I really enjoy reading Ms. Tiarre's column. It's good to know there are people who value the "true meaning" of acting in all about." I've read numerous columns of those his with ers but all they praise are classic. I do hope may pay one pe sing acting-entertainment in theatre to surpass our Asian neighbors in making quality films.

Joey sings . . .

From page F2

desire to reach your highest potential and answer your highest calling."

As DK ambassador, Joey includes segments of DK projects in all her shows.

She explains: "I show video clips of DK, and also of my visits—with my children—to Hanoi, to inform your community in Manila. I want to teach our to so many Filipinos abroad so possible, and get them interested in going home to see how DK is uplifting the poor."

Joey relates how her work with DK has likewise changed the lives of donors. She cites the case of one Filipino couple in Canada, "after the one who was invited to sing at their anniversary party. After the discreet DK slips between her numbers and explained the organization's mission, the couple made a pledge for three homes right there. Every year since, they've been supporting the growers.

"The 47 I've reached the half mark of my life, surprised as many things," says Joey, who survived cancer of the colon after being healed of cervical cancer (last attack her in the '90s. "At the end of the day, I ask myself, 'What is my highest calling?' Principally, 'I'm looking for it here at GK.'"

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3 IndieSine: TRIBU
4 DON'T LOOK BACK
5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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6 1408
7 RUSH HOUR 3
8 EVAN ALMIGHTY

METRO EAST

1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 THE INVASION
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 HAIRSPRAY
7 1408
8 THE LAST LEGION

NOVALICHES

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE INVASION
3 1408
4 DON'T LOOK BACK
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

PIONEER

1 1408
2 THE INVASION
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

STA. ROSA

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 RISE
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 A LOVE STORY

LIPA

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 A LOVE STORY

DASMARIÑAS

1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
5 1408

IMUS

1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 THE INVASION
4 1408
5 A LOVE STORY

ANGELES

1 1408
2 A LOVE STROY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 THE INVASION

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

STARMILLS

1 1408
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 THE INVASION
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 RUSH HOUR 3

ROXOLO

1 LICENSE TO WED
2 RISE
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 A LOVE STORY
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY / BOURNE ULTIMATUM

ILOILO

1 LICENSE TO WED
2 A LOVE STORY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 THREE
5 SINKING of JAPAN

Don't Look Back

now showing at all ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

No need for Shaina to worry about Angel Locsin

By the Entertainment Staff

KIM POMBO (GMA-7 ITEM) Angel Locsin's transfer to ABS-CBN sparked a game of musical chairs among talents of the two top networks.

Robin Padilla, who re-starred with Angel in the Regine-directed "Astig Pogi," has allegedly sent feelers to ABS-CBN. His "reunion" with Angel in the Kapamilya-hosted, however, has gone off. It's because he has a "fan" overseer with both the TV and movie arms of GMA-7, a source told Bulgar.

ABS-CBN sent star Shaina Magdayao was supposedly cut flat by Angel's move and contemplated transferring to GMA-7.

The story's still out on this one. If you ask us, all that Shaina needs is time, training and the full trust of Kapamilya bosses.

Waterworks

Just time that 40 Al-Al-las Mae' flight to GMA-7 was observed after snap ABS-CBN exec aired loads on in front of her? As in water-works, reports an insider. The same sinagpak source says, "What 40 Al-Asan't know is, that exec is a brave actress than

SHOCKO! SEMA!

RUSHES

Wendy Valdez.'

One-two punch

This one is sure fi-nished. Boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, an ex-Kapamilya, is now a Kapuso.

He was set to sign up with GMA-7 yesterday but the big to-do was moved to next week. Wa-hoot that Otc Mon will do-a-ration. However, an insider insists that the new show's format is still undecided. An action-reality? A singing camera-ole feature?

Marian's gain

An insider confirms that Angelica-not movie will be cooler than Cinema, with Pinky Prican—and that Angel's planned Regal Films project with Cinema Bella fans a-wow leading lady: Marian Rivera.

Bye, bye RPN

Hija Cassia Juan resigned as president and CEO of the government-controlled station RPN-9, effective Friday. She told Bulgar that she was joining the private sector.

***

Top of the tabloids

The top dawn blo'mation tabloid asininula this week. (And why we are stowed, if we are stowed.)

• Mitan Barzon, ambisnerring bilak's-racing tumbuhallaan!

• Eumbra Lalit, Abraker's ang

• Will somebody please help Smokey?

Yay bla nanan...!

• Al-Al admits jump ay: Hapit-sila, sabi akong-tubuho.

• Al-Al, nag-sorry sa GMA-7.

• Al-Al, talbog-sana nakabiba!

• Nagpag drukwar si Cinema, inspected lines-Hong Kong.

• Gumboat si Cristine Reyes, lil parang-nagbi-pot.

• Shaking, kaga'nai sa movie si Cristine.

Desires department

• Asian Cinema pinagtatanungan si Tal Mo!

• Cristine Reyesana, Angel Locsin si Iza Calzado, Allen-ggan si Diether Ocampo.

• Cristine, nimbing at pumili-gaan si Diether!

• Cristine Reyesana may-ka-of-fair na foreigner-looking guy.

Nice loves for old

• Al Tantiado-Kandi na ang-ibe ata princess ng-GMA (?)

• Sobra, sikat-sya nanggang ngayon nagsisigaw si Heart.

• Si Jennylyn pa rin ang labs para...Dingdong! Si kapag nanonood si Marian sa bahay niya.

• Gasgilas, ill-banned sa set ng 'Marimar'.

• Sanyo-ka nanggang ang-sobrang Dingdong Marian!

• Luis Manzano sending bulak-lignam-ay Angel Locsin! (Promise!)

Regrets and issues

• Walo-nang rumors si Jennylyn Mercado!

• Jennylyn, naghihirap na.

• Angelika dela Cruz...aking-sisi at pagbigat sa loss.

• Gina Pareleja gustong-tumaan dang-dialogue?

• Wala-nang-sure-sure ng-producers: Vinh-more-na-bahay si Bada-lilne, inside job?

• Bada-lilne, "grandstore" ng-mag-asawa!

• Amy-kay-Willie: "Mapalong-talagang-annual na 'yan!"

• Wen-si-Sarah at Willie-nag-di-nadagan-ca: "Mmmmm".

Short fuses

• Pili-bi-nanamamasyang-gala director Laurenti Dyogi!

• Pasikatan-na-Gasan, annoucedna-pala si-runaway-ni-Bea.

• Co-prod ng-Milky Cranberry concert, umuwian-na-lahi ng-pasaway!

• Blanca-Gonzales, napipikon-kapag-tinatanong-tungkol kay-EC Ganong-Gen.

• Lani Mercado, ill pa-hanggang-nadagang-isip kay Gretchen Barretto.

• Hopi-gali pa-rin-kay Marlet.

• Mother Lily-umiyak-sa-sa-hirang-balitpa-raan.

Weddings, shay!

• Eksena-Ochoa-wants to get married in Milan. (Sya lang?)

• Nagpapa-interview-nap-aalam-ang-bumbuyan-ko-Vina Morales-pending-kasalan!

• Bjyke-ay-Bieh-Mirasol, kasal na?

• Bjyke-at-Bieh, nagpapakasal-na-ng-bukas!

• Sa-Santa-at-Pier Gonzalez, parang-mga-bata-sa-Hong-Kong.

Story of the week

• "Missing-daysani"—ABS-CBN

• Willie Revillame-Ideas-Jose De Leon

• Sexy, pumba-lang-ayong-may-issue? Willie

• Willie, napalpak-kay-Amy: "Ito-pala-dahilan-ya-sa-complaint"

• Willie: "Wala-akong-dapat-i-explain-dahil-walang-togli-ers-pawa!"

JOEY DE LEON

WILLIE REVILLAME

This story should go away already

• Stella not ready to join husband Vhong in Turkey

• Stella, nanunukso nang-nanakaw-mali si Tuesan?

• Stella, umaaming di alam-ang-pangalan ng-Tuesan.

• Tuesan, hihilingin-ang-kay-Ana-sa-condo-ni-Petra-kapa-umuwi.

• Stella, hindi-pang-kinausap-ang-mga-kapatid-ng-Tuesay-Diaz!?

Another story that should go away already

• Paspas-ang-lawsuit-ng-Regine kay-Ogie.

• Kumare'-ang-tawag-ni-Michelle-kay-Regine.

• Michelle-says-Regine-is-part-of-her-family. (Ohhhhan-ha!?)

• Regine, malakil-ang-utang-na-loob-kay-Michelle. (At-han-e-mine, no?)

• Magsisimula-si-Ogie, subili-nang-mangha-mpa-kay-Regine.

• Regine, dapat-na-talagang-magmadaling-makabalik!

• Regine-at-Ogie, dinedead-ho-sa-2008.

• Ogie, subili-na-pinilamalo-si-Regine.

• Ogie-dedma-lang-nag-lasa-kapoy-si-Australia-si-Michelle.

• Regine-nindi-nanol-sa-telepono-nila-si-Ogie.

Ang Lee's 'Lust'-ful Venice entry ...

From page 61

and you are all these movie stars, politicians, activists, intellectuals, students and gangsters stomping in their small mill. The scene was hardcore camp and florid. I wanted to recreate that scene in one of my films.

The hotel's last close encounters with the late great Jane Hangout and Angelika Sikat was strained, too. As Roger becomes a good friend. He's never known a star colder! I was struggling in Sexy Sub.

Working for the weekly Filipino newspaper Filipino Express in Jersey City and Sexy Evil City was real 'hotel' living, artistically and financially: you do everything, from writing to making chemicals for those old print machines and then the layout. Sex is still seen a very rewarding experience. Procreational experience (be Pinoy dialogues in the area and my fun-beat film "Batang Nbsl Side" is the result of that.

How is your faith in the Filipino building up these days?

There's hope despite the endless building of walls throughout cities and throughout the land. There's hope even if we still have a very corrupt and neglectful system. We cannot allow cynicism to rule us.

What are your 10 favorite Filipino films? Which of these films made a big impact on you as a child?

Hot Just 10 ... "Mayrdin sa Ilalim ng Liwanag," "Batang," "Kondisyon ng Labi," "Maalaalang ang Dugo sa Balay," "Tabo Gimbal," "Pasad sa Balay," "Bangungot," "Sakmo," "Islanso Pasilip Sony" all the early Delphy and Chiquito movies. I love watching old black and white Dyosa movies, hubit sa ano....

I don't know why but this particular scene is just the most powerful cinema image that has forever burned in my mind. It came up as a child and to this day I keep going back to this scene from the black and white Bernardo Bos Jr. movie, "Mayndong ang Dugo sa Tubig," where two young brothers, who were kids, were nevertheless subjugated by the mutinous and close onslaught by Filipinos by the cruelty of the Japanese invaders. These were this truck, everybody was pushing...trying to keep on it and grab a spare and escape, it was unbelievable time; one of the brothers got in and the truck suddenly pulled away, leaving one of the brothers. He tried to run after the truck till it was gone from his sight. It was so sad and heartbreaking.

Another movie that really made a great impact on me as a young man is the Joseph Estrada starrer, "Gala Gimbal." Those black and white images were very sharp-necessary in fighting, even good performances. It was that stunning then. There were just two characters, the criminal and the devil. Esep is the criminal and the late great Johnny Monteiro was Lucas. The setting was terrifying: a heavy wooden cross along deserts, hotel, caves and rough roads.

LAV DIAZ won the 2003 Gawad Urian for his 'Ebolusyon.'

The devil keps reappearing, teasing and engaging him on a great discourse about God, good and evil, suffering and pleasure. Wow. Where is this film now?

You will turn 50 next year. What were the highs and low points of that year? Still a mystery for you on a personal and professional level?

Remember 50 next year, I'll be 50. The high points are the births of my children. I still get high every time I think about their coming in this world. Low points? I haven't have started so much time.

How contemporary? I see my film I am quite satisfied now with my aesthetic struggle in my cinema. But the discourse continues every day. The struggle continues.

On a lighter note, when you go on long trips, what are your must-bring items?

A few black shirts, two pairs of pants, a toothbrush, a book, a guitar, a harmonica and a camera.

Have you been able to hang out with Quentin Tarantino while he's in Manila? What do you think about his obsession for films by Gilda R. Santiago, Gerry de Leon and Eddie Romero?

No. I was holed up in my small studio doing post for "Encantos" during his stay here. But according to Tikoy Aguiluz, Tarantino's count-one film, his choice was "Batang Wat Side." The day was set, he sat inside the theater waiting, but because of hours, the price of the film didn't show up. He tried to watch a very dirty VHS copy but he gave up. He said he wanted to see the film in a more tolerable set up and home.

Tarantino being "obsessed" with the B-movies of Gerry Leon, Eddie Romero and Cirio Santiago is amazing. Maybe he saw some unique entries in those Filipino movies as he has evolved about them.

If you had the time, money and resources to do the ultimate Lav Diaz film, what would that film be?

I can't really give schedules anymore because I do have a lot of dream projects. I will still make the same films, in my own framework, form, aesthetic struggle and philosophical mood. Ultimately, one's concern is just one whole representation of one's self life, one's perspective on culture, contribution to help further or improve humanity, there on time, space and nature, as ... a dialectic on the mystery of ego, the concept of self, why do we also do governors, why this world is so full of ego? That would be a great premise, the dialectic of the self.

I struggle with these questions ... why am I making this so-called long cinema? Why must my cinema exist? We struggle for the ultimate, even in orgasm, but in the end, the ultimate is just One, a concept that needs to be fulfilled. Just like Philippine cinema, it needs greater fulfillment. Just like the Filipino, he

needs to be saved. We must work hard, at Hub, and push more, and push for greater discourse. We must continue to push Philippine cinema to greater heights and make it truly relevant and representative of our culture.

E-mail the columnist at rvnapoles_2000@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Napoles Report," on www.gutterbloggers.net/napoleonpark.

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THE INVASION

CAST member Keira Knightley arrives for the screening of "Atonement," which opened the Venice Film Festival at the Cinema Palace on Wednesday. "Atonement" is an adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel about a girl who makes a false accusation with tragic results and tries to atone for her mistake. AFP

'Kubrador' and 'Kaleldo' ...

Pictures in "Kanal, Kanal, Kanalo," highest grosser in the 2006 Metro Manila Film Festival.

The awarding ceremonies, to be produced by APT Productions, will be broadcast on RPN 9.

The Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino is chaired by Hilda Bautista of the Department of Communication of De la Salle University. Its members are National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera, Ernesto Rhoda and Salvacion Rondora and Classification Board chair Nicanor Tiongson, columnist and broadcast personality Ronda Fransisco, Malaya editor and MTRCB member Mario Hernandez, UP College of Mass Communication professor Gigi Alforon, UP professor Rolando Tolentino, and Inquirer editor and UST professor Lito Zulueta.

Other nominees:

Supporting Actor: Rafael Rosell ("Home and Juliet"); Allan Paule, Lauren Scraves ("Kubrador"); Archie Adamos ("Paano ni Hanny"); Ping Medina ("Tuhod ng Dod"); Ryan Quiros ("Sorenda"); Soliman Cruz ("Kanal, Kanal, Kanalo"); Domingo Landicho ("Kolonador")

Supporting Actress: Gloria Diaz ("Kanal, Kanal, Kanalo"); Lilet Lorenz ("Inang Bayo"); Tala Santos ("Inang Bayo"); Irene Tomas ("Home and Juliet"); Agot Isidro ("Tuhod ng Dod"); Glen Parenas ("Kanal, Kanal, Kanalo"); Pepe Fernandez ("Da Da Zaranzuela"); Meryll Soriano ("Sorenda")

Actor: Ilyan Agoncillo ("Kanal, Kanal, Kanalo"); Mark Gil ("Kolonador"); Rubcon Padilla ("Da Da Zaranzuela"); Alvin Gahona ("Kanal"); Mavic Magsino ("Sekador"); Jeri Haagan ("Tuhod ng Dod"); Bel Lucero ("Dyosa")

Actress: Judy Ann Santos ("Kanal, Kanal, Kanalo"); Rhian Sotiaco ("Inang Laya"); Chewie De Peralta ("Kalelda"); Angel Aquino ("Kalelda"); Gina Devora ("Kubrador"); Jocelyn Abbey ("Mamaw"); Mylene Dizon ("Home and Juliet"); Andrea del Rosario ("Home and Juliet")

Director: Connie Macinino ("Home and Juliet"); Jeffrey Jeturian ("Kubrador"); Jose Javier Reyes ("Kanal, Kanal, Kanalo"); Sollanie Mendoza ("Kalelda, Mamaw"); John Torres ("Todos, Todos, Todos"); Joel Lamangan ("Da Da Zaranzuela"); Ellanor Anthony Sanchez ("Huling Sulyap")

Picture: "Huling Sulyap ng Gabi" (CPA/Cinemasure Originals); "Kanal, Kanal, Kanalo" (Star Cinema); "Kalelda" (Cinemanage Productions); "Kubrador" (OLB Films); "Mamaw" (Cinemanage Productions); "Todos, Todos, Todos" (John Torres); "Home and Juliet" (CID/Cinemasure Originals)

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